November 10, 2023

The Honorable Peter Buttigieg

Secretary of Transportation

U.S. Department of Transportation

1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.

Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am pleased to offer my support for the Massachusetts Department of Transportation’s (MassDOT) and United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) joint Bridge Investment Program (BIP) funding application for the Sagamore Bridge on Cape Cod. As you are aware, the Cape Bridges connect Cape Cod to the rest of Massachusetts and New England. The Sagamore Bridge Project will ensure that our region’s transportation system is able to meet the current and future needs of Cape Cod’s residents, businesses, and visitors with a safe, reliable crossing.

The Sagamore Bridge – currently owned and maintained by the USACE – serves as a gateway to Cape Cod for more than 250,000 Cape and Islands residents and millions of visitors annually. With more than 35 million vehicles crossing the canal each year, the Bourne and Sagamore bridges are the sole access point for vehicular traffic to and from Cape Cod providing essential routes for transportation, tourism, and emergency evacuation. However, the current bridges are nearly 90 years old and functionally obsolete. The USACE is essentially out of options to continue the current maintenance program or conduct a full rehabilitation of both bridges.

The Cape Cod Bridges Program will construct the replacement of the Bourne and Sagamore Bridges that will meet current Bridge Design Standards and reconstruct approach roadways and interchanges to match replacement Bridge alignment. The program is proposed to be phased with Sagamore starting first and Bourne starting second. The program benefits are that extended lanes closures and full closures of the existing bridges associated with a Major Rehab are avoided, it addresses poor traffic operations and high crash rates, improves multimodal connectivity, increases economic vitality through increased mobility and creates of jobs. The application describes a “phased approach” where the Sagamore bridge is part of a larger program involving the replacement of both bridges. Beginning the project phasing with the Sagamore is the most efficient and cost-effective way to maintain the safety and economic vitality of the Cape Cod crossing.

We appreciate the Healey-Driscoll Administration's commitment to replacing both bridges and addressing the related deficiencies in the connecting transportation network. This Bridge Investment Program funding request is a critical component of the Project’s complete finance plan. The total cost for the Sagamore Bridge Project is $2.14 billion. MassDOT is requesting a total of $1.072 billion through the FFY 2023 Bridge Investment Program. MassDOT is also seeking $372 million from the MPDG discretionary grant program, including $150 million from INFRA and $222 million from Mega. The Commonwealth of Massachusetts has committed $700 million to the Program without any further legislative authorization required.

We are confident that the strong leadership of the Healey-Driscoll Administration, the deep support of the Biden Administration, and the partnership between the Commonwealth and USACE indicates that Massachusetts and the USACE are prepared to capitalize on the historic funding opportunities provided by President Biden’s Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.

We are proud to support the Commonwealth’s application for funding. We appreciate your fair and full consideration of this important project.

Sincerely,

[Name]

[Title]