

ANN McLANE KUSTER
SECOND DISTRICT, NEW HAMPSHIRE
WWW.KUSTER.HOUSE.GOV

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & COMMERCE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON HEALTH
SUBCOMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT & INVESTIGATIONS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON ENERGY
DEMOCRATIC STEERING AND POLICY
COMMITTEE



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
320 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-2902
P: (202) 225-5206

CONCORD OFFICE:
18 NORTH MAIN STREET, 4TH FLOOR
CONCORD, NH 03301
P: (603) 226-1002

NASHUA OFFICE:
184 MAIN STREET, SUITE 222
NASHUA, NH 03060
P: (603) 595-2006

NORTH COUNTRY OFFICE:
33 MAIN STREET, SUITE 202
LITTLETON, NH 03561
P: (603) 444-7700

July 8, 2019

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

Dear Secretary Chao,

I am proud to support the 2019 Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development Grant (BUILD 2019) Discretionary Grant proposal in the amount of \$20 million submitted jointly by Vermont Agency of Transportation and New Hampshire Department of Transportation for the “Hinsdale, NH – Brattleboro, VT NH Route 119 Bridge Replacement Project”. These funds will address the needs of this rural region of the state by bypassing two deteriorated and functionally-obsolete bridges with a new bridge to the south of their current location. These critical “interstate” bridges carry NH Route 119 over the Connecticut River and connect the communities of Hinsdale, New Hampshire and Brattleboro, Vermont, as well as the surrounding regions.

Built in 1920, the nearly 100-year old existing Anna Hunt Marsh and Charles Dana Bridges are experiencing advanced, widespread deterioration of the trusses, floor beams, stringers, and substructure systems. Due to their age and the heavy use of de-icing agents in the harsh northern climate, the deterioration has progressed to the point that significant rehabilitation or replacement is required for continued vehicular and truck travel on the highway.

The new proposed bridge is critical for the movement of people and goods locally, regionally and internationally. NH Route 119 connects Cheshire County and the Monadnock Region in New Hampshire to the international trade corridor of Interstate 91 in Vermont, which then connects the entire region to the Canadian trade market to the north as well as larger New England ports to the south.

This proposed new bridge is critically important to the connectivity, economic vitality, and quality of life for both New Hampshire and Vermont citizens in the region, including nearly 50% of the residents of Hinsdale, NH who commute to Vermont for employment. Businesses in the area rely on these bridges daily to facilitate delivery of goods and services throughout the area.

The project is consistent with state of good repair plans for both NHDOT and VTrans, and appears in both New Hampshire's approved Ten Year Transportation Improvement Plan and Vermont's State Transportation Improvement Program.

I am pleased to fully support the New Hampshire Department of Transportation's application for the Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development Discretionary Grant. This proposal would provide critical assistance to the local economy and infrastructure and ensure the continued economic viability of the region. Thank you for your consideration of this request. If you have any questions or status updates, you may reach out to Tom Giancola from my office at Tom.Giancola@mail.house.gov or (603) 595-2006.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ann McLane Kuster". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Ann McLane Kuster
Member of Congress