

# United States Senate

March 6, 2023

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I write today in strong support of the New Hampshire Department of Transportation's application for the U.S. Department of Transportation's 2023 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant program for the planned General Sullivan Bridge Bicycle and Pedestrian Crossing Project ("General Sullivan Bridge Project") that will be located between the City of Dover, NH, and the Town of Newington, NH.

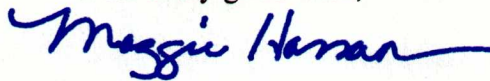
This project addresses the needs of area businesses, local communities, and supports the economy of the region. The proposed General Sullivan Bridge Project would improve safety, increase local and regional economic competitiveness, and positively affect environmental sustainability, three key priorities outline in Executive Order 14052. The completed project would have a significant local and regional impact by increasing the accessibility of the Pease Tradeport, a critical regional economic engine, and the Portsmouth regional hospital, access to which is vital to the regional communities' health and wellness.

In addition, the proposed General Sullivan Bridge Project would help to improve safety for pedestrians and bicyclists, and would go towards making the bridge structurally sound; the bridge is on the State's Red List, and currently bridge was closed to traffic because of failings in the deck, superstructure, and substructure. Currently, a single temporary lane on the nearby Little Bay Northbound Bridge is used to allow pedestrian and non-motorized crossing to Pease Tradeport and Portsmouth Regional Hospital over Little Bay and the Piscataqua River. The only other existing alternative for pedestrians or cyclists requires more than 20 miles of travel over the Eliot Bridge from Dover, NH, into Eliot, ME, and then over the Sarah Mildred Long Bridge into Portsmouth, NH.

This proposed Project would provide additional non-motorized travel options for commuters and visitors to the area – helping to decrease transportation-related greenhouse gas emissions and protect the vulnerable natural resources of Little Bay.

This project represents a significant investment in the Seacoast region that would enhance the quality of life for both residents and visitors, as well as ensure the continued economic vitality of the communities of Dover, Somersworth, Rochester, Newington, and Portsmouth, NH. I strongly encourage you to look favorably upon this application consistent with all applicable federal laws and regulations. Please do not hesitate to contact my office directly at 603-622-2204 if my staff or I can be of further assistance.

With every good wish,



Margaret Wood Hassan  
United States Senator