

LISA MURKOWSKI
ALASKA

COMMITTEES:
ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES
CHAIRMAN

APPROPRIATIONS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON INTERIOR,
ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES
CHAIRMAN

HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR,
AND PENSIONS

INDIAN AFFAIRS

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0203

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(202) 224-5301 FAX

November 27, 2018

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(907) 271-3735

250 CUSHMAN STREET, SUITE 2D
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800 GLACIER AVENUE, SUITE 101
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(907) 586-7277

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(907) 262-4220

1900 FIRST AVENUE, SUITE 225
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(907) 225-6880

851 EAST WESTPOINT DRIVE, SUITE 307
WASILLA, AK 99654-7142
(907) 376-7665

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

Dear Secretary Chao:

I am writing to express support for three Competitive Highway Bridge Program (CHBP) grant proposals from the Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities (DOT&PF). These proposals target the rehabilitation or replacement of bridges in Alaska which are listed in the National Bridge Inventory as “structurally deficient” or have otherwise outlived their service life. Please see pertinent details on each of the affected bridge projects within the enclosed fact sheets describing each grant proposal.

The CHBP is provided for under Division L of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2018 (Public Law 115-141) and intended to assist states with a population density of less than 100 people per square mile. Alaska’s transportation system generally lacks the redundancy which Lower 48 states enjoy and so many of our roadways serve as a “lifelines” in the truest sense. These bridge projects are critical to the transportation infrastructure, as well as the local economies of the Alaskan communities surrounding these vital, often exclusive, transportation links.

Thank you in advance to FHWA staff for their careful consideration of DOT&PF’s CHBP grant proposals. Consistent with all relevant rules, laws, and regulation, I respectfully request that all due consideration be given to all eligible Alaska-based applications. Thank you for the opportunity to bring these applications to your attention.

Sincerely,



Lisa Murkowski
United States Senator

United States Senate

November 30, 2018

The Honorable Elaine Chao
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Chao,

As you may know, the Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities (DOT&PF) has recently applied for federal grant funding under the Competitive Highway Bridge Program (CHBP). Our nation's transportation infrastructure is critical to this country's economic growth and our way of life, particularly in rural Alaska. The CHBP will provide flexibility from federal one-size-fits all mandates for several proposals put forth by Alaska's DOT&PF.

It is to my understanding that the DOT&PF proposals target the rehabilitation and replacement of bridges in Alaska that the National Bridge Inventory has listed as "structurally deficient." The bridges in need of repairs span from Eastern Alaska, to Ketchikan and to Seward where bridges are vital to connect rural communities.

So many of Alaska's roadways serve as lifelines in the truest sense. These bridge projects are critical to the transportation infrastructure, as well as the local economies of the Alaskan communities surrounding these vital, often exclusive, transportation links. For example, the bridge projects in Eastern Alaska will allow native communities to continue subsistence activities and provide safer travel for those who support the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System. In Seward, modernizing the Seward Highway, a critical transportation corridor, will provide a link for goods shipped from the Port of Alaska located in Anchorage. And in Ketchikan, communities rely on a dependable transit network to support tourism and fishing, which bolster the local economy.

I am honored to represent all Alaskans, and I ask that you give all due consideration to any Alaskan organization being considered for these grants. Thank you for considering funding this project, and consistent with all relevant rules, laws and regulations, I respectfully ask that all due consideration be given to this request.

Sincerely,



Dan Sullivan
United States Senator



KETCHIKAN GATEWAY BOROUGH

1900 First Avenue, Suite 210, Ketchikan, Alaska 99901

• telephone: (907) 228-6625 • fax (907) 228-6684

Office of the Borough Manager

November 1, 2018

Commissioner Marc Luiken
Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities
3132 Channel Drive
Juneau, AK 99801

RE: Letter of Support

Commissioner Luiken –

I am very pleased to provide a letter in support of the Ketchikan Bridge Rehabilitation and Replacement Project's application for funding under the Federal Highway Administration's Competitive Highway Bridge Program. This project will rehabilitate the Ward Creek Bridge and replace the bridges at Herring Cove and Hoadley Creek, each of which is a key component of the Tongass Highway transportation corridor.

As you know, Ketchikan is an island community with limited ground transportation options, and the Tongass Highway is the main transportation corridor. All freight shipping, emergency medical and fire services, and commerce relies upon these bridges to remain safe, free-flowing, and open year round.

Because of this, I am particularly pleased with the three structures the Department has chosen for this project. All three bridges are located at absolutely critical locations for the economic vitality of our community. Were any of these bridges to be closed, it would devastate our tourism, seafood, freight, and construction industries, as well as potentially endangering lives by preventing access to emergency medical and fire services.

I urge the Federal Highway Administration to approve the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities' proposal for funding of these critical projects.

Sincerely,

Ruben Duran
Borough Manager, ICMA-CM



KETCHIKAN

Our lifestyle, your reward

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DOT&PF

Office of the Commissioner

November 27, 2018

Commissioner Marc Luiken
AK Dept. of Transportation and Public Facilities
3132 Channel Drive
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Commissioner Luiken:

The Ketchikan Visitors Bureau would like to offer our support for your department's proposal to the Federal Highway Administration for the Ketchikan Bridge Rehabilitation and Replacement Project.

Ketchikan hosts over 1 million visitors a year, traveling by cruise ship, airline and ferry. According to our estimations, almost 70% of the tours and attractions visited each year operate outside of Ketchikan's central business district and require travel over one and often two of the bridges scheduled for rehabilitation. Additionally, there are hotels, fishing lodges, vacation rental properties and B&Bs that are also located in areas where one or more bridges must be crossed for access.

Cruise visitors departing for activities located north must travel over Hoadley Creek bridge, and those on tour excursions located in Ward Cove or farther north also rely on access across the Ward Cove Bridge. South of Ketchikan hundreds of visitors each day will cross the Herring Cove bridge to or from activities.

Considering the age of these structures and the fact that all three are located on the Tongass Highway and provide the only access to points beyond, we are extremely concerned about the impact that a forced closure of any of these bridges would have on commerce, not to mention the inconvenience and safety of our visitors and residents alike. Please feel free to share this

letter with any interested parties. If there is any additional information or assistance we can provide, don't hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,



Patti Mackey, President & CEO
Ketchikan Visitors Bureau



Matt Hagan, Chairman,
Ketchikan Visitors Bureau
Board of Directors

C: Ketchikan City Council
Ketchikan Gateway Borough Assembly





PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
Administrative Offices / Engineering
2930 Tongass Avenue, Ketchikan, AK 99901
PH (907) 228-4727 / FX (907) 225-8721

November 21, 2018

Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities
Commissioner Marc Luiken
P.O. Box 112500
3132 Channel Drive
Juneau, AK 99811-2500

Dear Commissioner Luiken,

As the Mayor of the City of Ketchikan, I am pleased to express the City of Ketchikan's enthusiastic support for the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities Ketchikan Bridge Rehabilitation and Replacement Project. As a remote coastal town on a mountainous island, our infrastructure hugs the coast. In the case of transportation, the roadway system lacks much redundancy, necking down to individual bridges at two of the three locations of this project. It is hard to understate the critical importance of this project given that there is absolutely no way for our residents to get to either key or routine destinations without the Herring Cove Bridge and the Ward Cove Bridge. Further, there is no adequate way around the Hoadley Creek Bridge given the type and volume of vehicles that use that bridge. The proposed project would maintain and improve some of the most important transportation infrastructure of Ketchikan, thereby enabling our economy to function.

Each of these structures has its own important place in Ketchikan's transportation system:

Herring Cove Bridge connects our central business district, airport, and cruise ship berths to several of our main visitor attractions, including the bears and eagles at Alaska Rainforest Sanctuary and the salmon run at Herring Cove. The proposed new bridge would alleviate the significant pedestrian safety and capacity issues at this site.

Hoadley Creek Bridge is within feet of Ketchikan's downtown freight port and our hospital. Were this bridge to close, the only alternative route for freight headed south of the port requires a detour through steep residential streets; similarly, emergency vehicles transporting patients from the south would have a longer route around the hospital to get to the one emergency entrance on the island, on its north side.

Ward Cove Bridge connects downtown Ketchikan to the Shelter Cove area, the Alaska Marine Highway facility, the Ward Cove industrial area, and the Alaska State Troopers. It also connects the cruise ship berths to heavily used tourist destinations north of town. It is critical to address the foundation and deck problems at this bridge before structural deficiencies restrict community access to these resources.

The Tongass Highway transportation corridor sees heavy use by busses filled with visitors on the trip of their lifetimes, construction vehicles developing our infrastructure, and freight haulers, as well as passenger vehicles and pedestrians.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can provide additional assistance or information to help move this project forward.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Robert Sivertsen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Robert" and last name "Sivertsen" clearly legible.

Robert Sivertsen, Mayor

CC: Karl R. Amylon, City Manager
Lacey Simpson, Assistant City Manager
Mark Hilson, P.E., Public Works Director

Ketchikan Area Fire Chiefs



November 8, 2018

Commissioner Marc Luiken
AK Department of Transportation & Public Facilities
3132 Channel Drive, Suite 300
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Commissioner Luiken,

Fire, rescue, and emergency medical services in the Ketchikan Gateway Borough including the cities of Ketchikan and Saxman, Alaska are provided by North Tongass Volunteer Fire Department, Ketchikan Fire Department, and South Tongass Volunteer Fire Department. As the first responders for our community, it is extremely important to us to have consistent and safe access to all parts of our service area.

Therefore, we are in full support of the Ketchikan Bridge Replacement and Rehabilitation Project, and we commend the AK Dept. of Transportation & Public Facilities for seeking grant funding to make it happen. We urge the Federal Highway Administration to fully fund the Department's application for this project.

The three bridges that the Department has selected for this project represent three potential choke points for access to different parts of the greater Ketchikan area. A closure of any of them would have serious consequences for response time to significant portions of our population.

Two of these bridges, Ward Cove and Herring Cove, are completely non-redundant: if we lose one of them, there is no other land transportation option for transporting an EMS patient to PeaceHealth, our hospital. The third bridge, Hoadley Creek, is actually located directly outside of PeaceHealth.

Thank you for pursuing the resources needed to address these important infrastructure needs in Ketchikan. Please do not hesitate to contact us if we can provide additional information or support.

Sincerely,

Jerry Kiffer, Fire Chief
North Tongass VFD

Abner Hoage, Fire Chief
Ketchikan Fire Department

Steve Rydeen, Fire Chief
South Tongass VFD

City of Saxman

December 4, 2018

Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities
Commissioner Marc Luiken
P.O. Box 112500
3132 Channel Drive
Juneau, AK 99811-2500

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DEC 07 2018
DOT&PF
Office of the Commissioner

Dear Commissioner Luiken,

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Further, there is no adequate way around the Hoadley Creek Bridge given the type and volume of vehicles that use that Bridge. The proposed project would maintain and improve some of the most important transportation infrastructure of Ketchikan, thereby enabling our economy to function. Each of these structures has its own important place in Ketchikan's transportation system:

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Ward Creek Bridge connects downtown Ketchikan to the Shelter Cove area, the Alaska Marine Highway facility, the Ward Cove industrial area, and the Alaska State Troopers. It also connects the cruise ship berths to heavily used tourist destinations north of town. It

City of Saxman

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The Tongass Highway transportation corridor sees heavy use by buses filled with visitors on the trip of their lifetimes, construction vehicles developing our infrastructure, and freight haulers, as well as passenger vehicles and pedestrians. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can provide additional assistance or information to help move this project forward.

Sincerely,



Frank Seludo, Mayor



November 1, 2018

2018 Officers

Chelsea Goucher
President
Alaska Marine Lines

Jacquie Meck
First Vice President
TLP Communications, Inc.

Rachel Guyselman
Second Vice President
Tongass Federal Credit Union

Jason Custer
Secretary
Alaska Power and Telephone

Sophia Smith
Treasurer
Key Bank

Mary Wanzer
Past President
Coastal Real Estate Group

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Michelle O'Brien
Ketchikan Radio Center

Renee Schofield
TSS, Inc.

Bett Union-Jakubek
PeaceHealth KMC Foundation

Aftan Lynch
Inn at Creek Street

Chamber Staff

Carrie Starkey
Executive Director

Commissioner Marc Luiken
Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities
3132 Channel Drive
Juneau, AK 99801

Commissioner Luiken,

As the Executive Director of the Greater Ketchikan Chamber of Commerce, I am delighted to offer our organization's support for the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities grant application to the Federal Highway Administration for the Ketchikan Bridge Replacement and Rehabilitation Project.

The Department will be replacing two bridges that have exceeded their useful life:

- the Hoadley Creek Bridge located between the PeaceHealth Medical Center and Ketchikan's main freight shipping facility, and
- the Herring Cove Bridge located directly between the Whitman Lake Hatchery and the Alaska Rainforest Sanctuary, two of Ketchikan's largest visitor attractions

In addition, the Department will rehabilitate the Ward Cove Bridge, which has experienced extensive foundation damage. This bridge provides access to Ward Cove, an important industrial area in and of itself, but this bridge is also on the only route to a major new resource area currently being opened at Shelter Cove and a large number of small businesses are dependent on the bridge for customer access.

The ability to provide critical transportation infrastructure is necessary for attracting and retaining industries, ensuring public safety, and encouraging tourism in our rural community.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns with this project.

Sincerely,

Carrie Starkey
Executive Director

Alaska Trucking Association, Inc.

3443 Minnesota Drive · Anchorage, Alaska 99503 · Phone (907) 276-1149 · Fax (907) 274-1946

www.aktrucks.org

The authoritative voice of the trucking industry in Alaska

November 2, 2018

Commissioner Marc Luiken
Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities
3132 Channel Drive #300
Juneau, AK 99801

To Whom it May Concern:

The Alaska Trucking Association (ATA) has served the Alaska trucking industry for over 60 years, and we know that trucking is the lifeblood of Alaska's everyday economy. Whether a community is on the road system or only accessible by air or sea, commercial highway trucks are a vital link in Alaskan commerce. And commercial trucking depends on safe, unrestricted, and open roads to do our job.

For these reasons and on behalf of the 200 member company ATA, I support the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities' grant application to the Federal Highway Administration for the Ketchikan Bridge Rehabilitation and Replacement Project.

As you may know, Ketchikan is on an island, and all freight must be shipped into town via barge or air before it can be distributed by truck. This project is especially important to the community because one of the bridges slated for replacement is located directly outside of the town's freight dock, where the majority of all food sold in stores arrives. In addition, the bridge planned for rehabilitation is between the shipping dock and one of the main industrial areas.

This grant will allow the Department to look ahead to avoid possible closures in these aging and deteriorated structures. I encourage the FHWA to approve your grant application and fund the Ketchikan Bridge Rehabilitation and Replacement Project.

Sincerely,



Aves Thompson
Executive Director





ASSOCIATED GENERAL CONTRACTORS of ALASKA

8005 SCHOON STREET, SUITE 100 • ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99518
TELEPHONE (907) 561-5354 • FAX (907) 562-6118

November 13, 2018

Commissioner Marc Luiken
Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities
P. O. Box 112500
Juneau, AK 99811-2500

Commissioner Luiken,

The Associated General Contractors (AGC) of Alaska is a construction trade association representing over 640 contractors, specialty contractors, suppliers and manufacturers in Alaska. For seventy years, we have represented the industry through many aspects that help support the overall economy of the State.

Alaska is both blessed and cursed by its geography: blessed by the abundant beauty and natural resources; cursed, because as a young state, our transportation system has many shortcomings. We offer strong support for the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities' grant application to the Federal Highway Administration for the Ketchikan Bridge Rehabilitation and Replacement Project. Under the project, the Department will replace the Hoadley Creek and Herring Cove Bridges, which are both in poor condition. It will also replace the Ward Creek Bridge, a structure in serious condition due to damage to its foundation. As with so many Alaskan towns, Ketchikan has a non-redundant system; not only is there no alternative road access, the geography of Ketchikan means there is no place to put an alternative road.

Each of these bridges is critical to Ketchikan's economy and quality of life. For example, the local hospital and primary freight shipping facilities in Ketchikan are located across the street from each other, and the Hoadley Creek Bridge is at that point. The other two bridges are at pinch points on either side of town, and they are necessary links to major economic areas and future growth. By addressing these structural issues proactively, the Department will avoid the potential for emergency closures of these vital structures.

On behalf of AGC of Alaska, our 640 members and our 70 years representing the industry, we urge the Federal Highway Administration to fully fund the Ketchikan Bridge Rehabilitation and Replacement Project.

Sincerely,

John MacKinnon, Executive Director
Associated General Contractors of Alaska

DON YOUNG
CONGRESSMAN FOR ALL ALASKA
WASHINGTON OFFICE:
2314 RAYBURN BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
202-225-5765



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515
November 27, 2018

COMMITTEE ON
NATURAL RESOURCES
CHAIRMAN EMERITUS

COMMITTEE ON
TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE

REPUBLICAN
POLICY COMMITTEE

CANADA-U.S.
INTER-PARLIAMENTARY GROUP

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

Dear Secretary Chao:

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Thank you in advance to FHWA staff for their careful consideration of DOT&PF's CHBP grant proposals. Consistent with all relevant rules, laws, and regulations, I respectfully request that all due consideration be given to all eligible Alaska-based applications. Thank you for the opportunity to bring these applications to your attention.

Sincerely,


DON YOUNG
Congressman for All Alaska

Enclosures

CC: Sandra Garcia-Aline, Division Administrator, Alaska Division, FHWA
Brandye Hendrickson, Acting Federal Highway Administrator, FHWA
Marc Luiken, Commissioner, DOT&PF