

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

March 12, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

We write to express our support for the Vermont Agency of Transportation's (VTTrans) application for the U.S. Department of Transportation's Bridge Investment Program (CDFR #20.205) for the replacement of the Springfield I-91 Bridge. We are pleased to bring this proposal to your attention.

The Springfield I-91 bridge is a critical structure that facilitates the movement of people and goods in southern Vermont. It serves as the primary highway linking Vermont to northern Massachusetts to the south and Canada to the north, and accounts for the highest volume of regional freight movement from those two major trade hubs. Additionally, it is a critical regional route for residents to access jobs, transit services, and medical services in nearby White River Junction. Finally, this corridor serves as a major gateway to Vermont from southern New England and the Northeast for the region's critical tourism economy. I-91 is Vermont's second most-traveled interstate highway, and therefore it is vital that the Springfield I-91 bridge remains in a state of good repair.

With this grant, VTTrans will replace the bridge's decks, performing realignment work, and complete approaches to the bridge. Without this critical work, the bridge risks falling into a state of disrepair due to general deterioration.

Thank you for giving this application the careful consideration it deserves. If we can provide further evidence of our support for this proposal, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,



BERNARD SANDERS
United States Senator



PETER WELCH
United States Senator



BECCA BALINT
Member of Congress