



**THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE**  
**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**



**William Cass, P.E.**  
**Commissioner**

**David Rodrigue, P.E.**  
**Assistant Commissioner**  
**Andre Briere, Colonel, USAF (RET)**  
**Deputy Commissioner**

February 24, 2023

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

Please find enclosed our application for a 2023 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant. The State of New Hampshire is submitting this application for the "General Sullivan Bridge Bicycle and Pedestrian Crossing Project" and requests \$20 million of Federal funds under the 2023 RAISE grant program. This important project will address safety concerns related to the closed historic General Sullivan Bridge (GSB) that carried pedestrians and bicyclists over Little Bay between Dover, New Hampshire, and Newington, New Hampshire. It is the only non-motorized crossing of the bay available for miles connecting Dover to Portsmouth, New Hampshire, and the jobs in the Portsmouth area, including at the Pease International Tradeport, as well as Portsmouth Regional Hospital, transportation facilities, tourist attractions, and recreational opportunities.

The existing General Sullivan Bridge was constructed in 1934 as a vehicle bridge that spanned Little Bay, providing a primary route for vehicles traveling north from the City of Portsmouth and I-95 to the mountains and lakes of New Hampshire and Maine. In 1984, when the adjacent and current Little Bay Northbound Bridge was constructed, all vehicle traffic was removed from the GSB except for emergency vehicles in case of a blockage over the Little Bay Bridge. The GSB was dedicated to non-motorized use by pedestrians and bicyclists to cross Little Bay for both commuting and recreation until it was closed completely in 2018 because of its condition.

Due to the GSB's deterioration owing to its age and location in a harsh coastal climate, and the State's desire to provide multimodal transportation facilities, superstructure replacement of this closed structure is required. The reopening of a dedicated pedestrian/bicycle path will provide vital connections between desired locations for commuters, recreational users, and tourists in the Seacoast Region.

The proposed bridge project represents a significant investment for the region that would maintain and enhance the quality of life for area residents and visitors and ensure the continued economic vitality of the communities of Dover, Newington, and Portsmouth. Enjoying the enthusiastic support of area stakeholders from extensive collaboration, this project improves safety by separating bicyclists and pedestrians from high-speed eight-lane-wide vehicular traffic; decreases greenhouse gas emissions by

reducing reliance on automobiles; improves quality of life and equity by serving diverse users; links a regional bicycle path and trail network for commuters and leisure travelers; and connects nationally significant destinations.

The project is consistent with state of good repair plan for the New Hampshire Department of Transportation (NHDOT) and appears in New Hampshire's approved Ten-Year Transportation Improvement Plan for construction beginning in 2023.

You can find letters of support for the project, grant attachments, and additional information on the GSB bridge inspections, National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documentation, including the approved Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (FSEIS)/Supplemental Record of Decision (SROD), and powerful public involvement to save this historic bridge on our web page at [http://newington-dover.com/gsb\\_subsite/raisegrant2023.html](http://newington-dover.com/gsb_subsite/raisegrant2023.html).

New Hampshire is grateful for the opportunity to submit this application and appreciates the consideration of the United States Department of Transportation. We look forward to hearing from you upon completion of the review process.

Sincerely,



William Cass, PE, Commissioner  
New Hampshire Department of Transportation