

## APPENDIX D

### Partnership and Collaboration

- Correspondence from NYSDOT Documenting Project Eligibility for TIP and STIP
- Draft Public Involvement Plan, with Letters of Support Appended



**Department of  
Transportation**

**KATHY HOCHUL**  
Governor

**MARIE THERESE DOMINGUEZ**  
Commissioner

**JANICE A. McLACHLAN**  
Chief of Staff and General Counsel

August 29, 2022

Matthew J. Driscoll  
Executive Director  
New York State Thruway Authority  
200 Southern Boulevard  
P.O. Box 189  
Albany, New York 12201-0189

Dear Executive Director Driscoll:

Pursuant to the Congressional Community Project Funding Requests process, the New York State Department of Transportation affirms that the New York State Thruway Authority's request for the rehabilitation of the South Grand Island Bridges, Interstate I-190, (between milepost 914.35 and milepost 914.99) in the Towns of Grand Island and Tonawanda, Erie County, New York meets the eligibility requirements under Title 23, of United State Code and that the project is scheduled to be obligated within the time period set forth under Transportation and Infrastructure request form.

The State acknowledges that the requested \$23.5 million toward this \$47.0 million project will be incorporated into the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) when federal funding is allocated for this purpose. Furthermore, the New York State Thruway Authority acknowledged that it is solely responsible for demonstrating the availability of the remaining non-federal share to complete the project.

Thank you for your consideration of the Rehabilitation of the South Grand Island Bridges Project in the Buffalo/Niagara Region. If I can be of additional assistance regarding this request, please contact me at 518-457-4422 or [Jan.McLachlan@dot.ny.gov](mailto:Jan.McLachlan@dot.ny.gov).

Sincerely,

Janice A. McLachlan  
Chief of Staff and General Counsel

# Rehabilitation of the South Grand Island Bridges

## Towns of Grand Island and Tonawanda

### Erie County

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## Draft Public Involvement Plan

September 2022

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## **Appendix A – Stakeholder Letters of Support**

## **1. Introduction**

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This document presents the Public Involvement Plan (PIP) for involvement of agency and public stakeholders in the Rehabilitation of the South Grand Island Bridges.

The New York State Thruway Authority (Authority) will apply for a Federal Bridge Investment Program (BIP) Grant in September 2022. The BIP Grant decision will dictate whether the Authority can pursue a more ambitious or less ambitious work scope. If the grant is not awarded to the Authority, project work will be limited to emergency-need bridge repairs with little opportunity to incorporate public involvement. If the grant is awarded to the Authority, the Authority will be able to pursue a much broader work scope that will warrant public involvement activities. This plan has been developed for the latter case. The work scope is described in Section 2 of this plan.

The goal of the plan is to actively encourage participation, comments, and ideas from those who use, host and/or are impacted by this project. Throughout the project's development, public involvement is an important component. Early, frequent, and continued efforts to involve the public are intended to address community concerns and needs while meeting the project's goals and Authority's operational and maintenance needs.

The Project's public involvement process will provide opportunities for interested stakeholders to learn about the project, follow its progress, and provide comments to be considered by the project development team as the project is advanced. By utilizing public outreach, the Authority intends to achieve the goal of securing the highest quality outcome through the exchange of ideas regarding the project's purpose, proposed improvements, impacts, and effectiveness.

This PIP explains how public participation will be achieved throughout the project's life. Stakeholders to be included in the public involvement process will be diverse, including other transportation agencies and organizations; regulatory agencies; elected and appointed officials; civic, business and trade organizations; freight and motorist representative organizations, residents, the traveling public, and other interested parties.

## **2. Project Information**

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As shown in the Project Location Map, below, the project is located along I-190, from Milepost 914.35 to Milepost 914.99, in the Towns of Grand Island and Tonawanda, Erie County, New York.

Figure 1 - Project Location Map



If a Federal BIP Grant is awarded to the Authority, this project will rehabilitate and strengthen deteriorated sections of conditionally at-risk, poor-rated elements of the two South Grand Island Bridges (BIN# 5043981 and BIN #5043982) crossing the Niagara River between Grand Island and Tonawanda. The project scope will include strengthening and repairing both bridges to address condition issues; improving wearing surface friction on both bridges to improve vehicle safety; safety improvements on both bridges for maintenance personnel; seismic resiliency improvements on the southbound bridge; restoring an unusable sidewalk on the southbound bridge and improving bicycle and pedestrian connectivity between existing shared-use trail systems on both sides of the bridges.

### 3. Stakeholders

A key part of the PIP is to identify persons, groups, or organizations who may or will be affected by the project and invite them to be involved in the project development process. The following is a list of stakeholders that have been included on a project contact list, which will be updated based on the individual, geographic needs of this project, and as additional stakeholders are identified.

The Traveling Public

- Thruway patrons
- Patrons of established shared-use trail systems in the vicinity of the project area including the Niagara Greenway's Shoreline Trail and the Empire State Trail

State and Federal Agencies

- Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)
- United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA)
- New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (NYS OPRHP)
- New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC)
- New York State Department of State (NYSDOS)

City, County, Town Jurisdictions

- Erie County
- Town of Grand Island
- Town of Tonawanda
- City of Niagara Falls
- City of Buffalo

Elected and Appointed Officials

- US Senator - Senate Majority Leader -The Honorable Charles Schumer
- US Senator - The Honorable Kirsten Gillibrand
- NYS Senate Transportation Chair - The Honorable Timothy M. Kennedy
- NYS Senator - The Honorable Sean M. Ryan
- NYS Congressional Representative - The Honorable Brian Higgins
- NYS Assembly Transportation Chair - The Honorable William B. Magnarelli
- NYS Assemblymember - The Honorable William Conrad
- NYS Assemblymember – The Honorable Angelo Morinello

Civic, Business, and Trade Organizations

- Buffalo-Niagara Partnership
- Grand Island Chamber of Commerce
- Associated General Contractors of New York State (AGC)
- Fair Apportionment of Infrastructure Revenue (FAIR)
- Trucking Association of New York (TANY)
- New York Roadway and Infrastructure Coalition (NYRIC)
- New York State AFL-CIO

Transportation and Transit Organizations

- GObike Buffalo
- Niagara Frontier Transit Authority (*Metro Bus and Rail, Buffalo Niagara Airport, Niagara Airport*)
- Niagara International Transportation Technology Coalition (NITTEC)
- Niagara River Greenway Commission
- American Automobile Association (AAA)

## 4. Community Impact Assessment

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Throughout the project development stages, the effects of the project on local communities and quality of life will be evaluated. The Authority will solicit the public's input to identify community concerns and solutions.

## 5. Public Involvement Objectives

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- Establish early and continued public engagement and communication with stakeholders, including the traveling public.
- Work with known local stakeholders to identify any additional stakeholders, including members of traditionally underserved communities, and the best means and locations to communicate with them.
- Present complete information to the public to promote understanding of and interest in the project.
- Identify public concerns regarding potential impacts of the project.
- Build local community support.
- Encourage effective public outreach by identifying a range of public communication methods, including electronic, written, and verbal communication.
- Encourage effective public outreach by selecting physical meeting and information sites, if needed, that are strategically located and conveniently accessible within the project area.
- Ensure consideration of public and agency input during the project development process by providing appropriate opportunities to elicit participation.
- Build consensus that the project's public participation process is fair, inclusive, and responsive.

## 6. Public Involvement Activities

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This section describes the various activities and tasks that have been, or will be, completed to meaningfully engage communities and organizations affected by the project. The Authority will ensure that activities are accessible to all persons regardless of race, color, national origin, disability, age, and sex.

In Summer 2022, the Authority developed a non-residential project contact list, including the stakeholders identified in Section 3 of this plan. Initial outreach to stakeholders was conducted to share information about the project purpose and determine if stakeholders would support the Thruway's application for a Federal Bridge Investment Program (BIP) Grant. The Authority responded directly to any questions that stakeholders had about the project, and numerous stakeholders furnished letters of support, which are included in PIP Appendix A.

The BIP Grant decision will dictate whether the Authority can pursue a more ambitious or less ambitious work scope. If the grant is not awarded to the Authority, project work will be limited to emergency-need bridge repairs with little opportunity to incorporate public

involvement. If the grant is awarded to the Authority, it will be able to pursue a much broader work scope that will warrant public involvement. In the latter case, the Authority will proceed with the following public involvement activities.

The Authority will work with known stakeholders on the contact list to identify any additional stakeholders, and the best methods of communicating with them. This will include working with local stakeholders to identify and reach out to traditionally underserved communities. Communication with the traveling public must also be considered.

Communication methods that may be implemented include:

- Publish a public project webpage on the Authority's website (<https://www.thruway.ny.gov>) to communicate information about the project. An e-mail address, phone number, and mailing address will be provided to gather feedback. The webpage will be updated and maintained throughout the design and construction phases of the project.
- Provide links to the Authority's project webpage from stakeholders' webpages, as appropriate and practicable.
- Provide links to the project webpage on the Authority's social media platforms, including Twitter and Facebook.
- Develop a printed information brochure or project information page to distribute at strategic locations, e.g., regional Thruway Service Areas, the Authority's Western New York Welcome Center in Grand Island, community centers in affected towns and cities. The print document will include an e-mail address, phone number, mailing address to provide comments, and a website address and QR code for additional project information.
- This project will not require a Public Hearing. However, if interest in particular communities or organizations is high, the Authority will schedule a meeting in a fully accessible location, convenient to the interest area and appropriately publicized with advisories, to present information on the project and solicit feedback.

Figure 2 - Western NY Welcome Center



## 7. Agency Coordination and Involvement

The PIP provides for coordination with other affected government bodies and regulatory agencies. The Authority will coordinate with other agencies and seek their active involvement throughout project development.

## 8. Schedule

If the BIP Grant is awarded, the initial public involvement activities identified in Section 6 of this plan will be conducted through the Fall of 2022 and Spring of 2023. The project webpage, and

the communication channels provided on it, will be maintained through the completion of construction in Winter 2025.

## **9. Updating and Documentation**

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This project PIP was last updated on September 3, 2022. It will be incorporated into all NEPA and/or SEQR documents, as appropriate.

# **Appendix A**

## **Stakeholder Letters of Support**

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3205

August 18, 2022

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE  
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I write in support of the application submitted by the New York State Thruway Authority for funding from the Bridge Investment Program administered by the U.S. Department of Transportation. Funding from this program will support the Authority's project to rehabilitate the South Grand Island Bridges on a section of the Niagara Thruway (I-190) in Western New York.

Interstate 190 is a north-south auxiliary Interstate Highway that connects I-90 in Buffalo, New York with the Canada-U.S. border near Niagara Falls. The freeway bisects downtown Buffalo before crossing Grand Island and travelling around the outskirts of Niagara Falls, then crossing the Niagara River on the Queenston-Lewiston Bridge into Ontario. The South Grand Island Bridge consists of a pair of two-lane truss arch bridges spanning the Niagara River between Tonawanda and Grand Island in New York. Each bridge carries one direction of Interstate 190 and New York State Route 324. Both crossings are operated by the New York State Thruway Authority as part of the Niagara Thruway. The southbound span was opened in 1935 and acquired by the State of New York in 1950. The northbound span was finished in 1963.

The requested funding will be used to rehabilitate the South Grand Island Bridges on the Niagara Thruway to provide a long-term improvement to the corridor, maintaining community connections across I-190 and enhancing the overall safety for motorists and the quality of life for residents in this area. The project will address critically-needed steel repairs to both South Grand Island structures of I-190, incorporate resiliency design improvements allowing this essential transportation link to actively serve in its intended network purpose following a 2,500 year seismic event, and perform safety improvements to the deck of the southbound structure. Additionally, this project will make improvements to re-open the sidewalk on the southbound bridge to pedestrians and bicyclists, and will include amenities to enhance connectivity, navigation, and comfort for non-motorized travel on the bridge.

I ask that you please give this application your full consideration. If you have any questions or desire further information, please do not hesitate to contact my staff member, Ryan Kambich, at (202) 224-4451.

Sincerely,



Kirsten Gillibrand  
United States Senator

THE SENATE  
STATE OF NEW YORK



**TIMOTHY M. KENNEDY**  
SENATOR, 63<sup>RD</sup> DISTRICT

CHAIRMAN  
TRANSPORTATION  
SELECT COMMITTEE ON  
STATE-NATIVE AMERICAN RELATIONS

COMMITTEES  
BANKS  
CITIES 2  
ENERGY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS  
FINANCE  
INSURANCE  
RULES

August 18, 2022

□ ALBANY OFFICE:  
ROOM 708  
LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING  
ALBANY, NEW YORK 12247  
(518) 455-2426 OFFICE  
(518) 426-6851 FAX

□ DISTRICT OFFICE:  
37 FRANKLIN ST., SUITE 550  
BUFFALO, NEW YORK 14202  
(716) 826-2683 OFFICE  
(716) 826-2793 FAX

E-MAIL ADDRESS:  
KENNEDY@NYSENATE.GOV

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

As Chairman of the New York State Senate Committee on Transportation, I strongly support the New York State Thruway Authority's \$25 million U.S. Department of Transportation Bridge Investment Program (BIP) Grant application, which will supplement the cost of a project to rehabilitate both South Grand Island Bridges on a section of the Niagara Thruway (I-190).

The Niagara Thruway is a 21-mile segment of interstate highway that connects the City of Buffalo in Erie County to the City of Niagara Falls in Niagara County. This segment serves as a vital corridor for commerce, connecting points between the United States and Canada, and local communities in between. The project will address critically-needed steel repairs to both South Grand Island Bridge structures of the I-190, incorporate resiliency design improvements allowing this essential transportation link to actively serve in its intended life network purpose following a 2500-year seismic event, and perform safety improvements to the deck of the southbound structure. Additionally, this project will provide improvements to re-open the sidewalk on the southbound bridge to pedestrians and bicyclists and will include amenities to enhance connectivity, navigation, and comfort for non-motorized travel on the bridge.

Each year, there are 13 million trips taken on this section, which connects the Town of Tonawanda to the Town of Grand Island. The BIP grant will help provide for the safe, efficient, and sustainable movement of people, goods, and services, while ensuring that surrounding communities, which includes Areas of Persistent Poverty and Opportunity Zones, benefit from this project.

Rehabilitating the South Grand Island Bridges on the Niagara Thruway will provide a long-term improvement to this corridor, maintaining community connections across I-190 and enhancing the overall safety for motorists and the quality of life for residents in this area. It will mitigate air quality concerns, upgrade mobility and community connectivity, and decrease the need for repeated maintenance that increase traffic disruptions.

For these reasons, I strongly support the NYS Thruway Authority's Bridge Investment Program grant application. Thank you for your consideration of this important matter. Should you have any questions, I welcome your call.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Timothy M. Kennedy". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Timothy M. Kennedy  
New York State Senator, 63rd District

BRIAN HIGGINS  
26TH DISTRICT, NEW YORK

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON HEALTH  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON TRADE  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON SOCIAL SECURITY

COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET

ASSISTANT WHIP

Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515-3226

2459 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
(202) 225-3306  
(202) 226-0347 (FAX)

726 EXCHANGE STREET  
SUITE 601  
BUFFALO, NY 14210  
(716) 852-3501  
(716) 852-3929 (FAX)

800 MAIN STREET  
SUITE 3C  
NIAGARA FALLS, NY 14301  
(716) 282-1274  
(716) 282-2479 (FAX)  
higgins.house.gov

September 9, 2022

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

**Re: SUPPORT for NYSTA's BIP application for the South Gand Island Bridges**

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

It has been conveyed to me that the New York State Thruway Authority will apply for \$25 million under the U.S. Department of Transportation's Bridge Investment Program (BIP) for the rehabilitation of the South Grand Island Bridges on the Niagara Thruway (Interstate 190). I write to convey my support for this application.

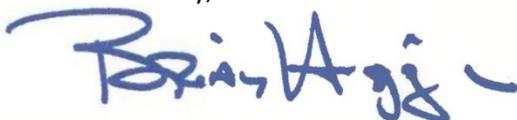
Extending the life of the South Grand Island Bridges is critical to the ability of U.S. manufacturers and other producers to export their goods to Canada, America's leading trading partner. Interstate 190 is the critical link from the rest of the U.S. Interstate system to the Niagara River crossings into Canada. US exports to Canada annually top \$255 billion, and the Niagara River border crossings have become the highest-volume crossings of the U.S.' northern border.

The south-bound South Grand Island Bridge is the oldest piece of major infrastructure in the Thruway Authority portfolio, having been constructed in 1935. A failure or a capacity reduction at this critical piece of eighty-seven year old infrastructure would appreciably increase costs for U.S. manufacturers and other exporters to Canada, and thereby erode the U.S. competitive position in our top export market.

This is precisely the type of critical and strategic investment that was anticipated when Congress authorized and made appropriations for the BIP in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. I am pleased to commend this application to you.

Thank you very much for your leadership and your consideration.

Sincerely,



Brian Higgins  
Member of Congress



WILLIAM B. MAGNARELLI  
 Assemblyman 129<sup>th</sup> District

THE ASSEMBLY  
 STATE OF NEW YORK  
 ALBANY

CHAIR  
 Committee on Transportation

COMMITTEES  
 Economic Development, Job Creation,  
 Commerce and Industry  
 Education  
 Rules  
 Oversight, Analysis and Investigation  
 Steering  
 Ways and Means

August 23, 2022

Hon. Pete Buttigieg  
 Secretary  
 U.S. Department of Transportation  
 1200 New Jersey Ave, SE  
 Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

As Chair of the New York State Assembly’s Committee on Transportation, I am writing in support of the New York State Thruway Authority’s (“Thruway Authority”) application for a Transportation Bridge Investment Program (“BIP”) grant to rehabilitate the South Grand Island Bridges on the Niagara Thruway (I-190). The Thruway Authority is seeking \$25 million for this project that is critically important to both the State and the local community.

The bridges proposed for rehabilitation connect the Town of Tonawanda to Grand Island. It is part of a 21-mile portion of interstate that connects the City of Buffalo to the City of Niagara Falls and serves as a major connecting point between the US and Canada. Approximately 13 million trips are taken each year on this section of the interstate. The BIP grant will help provide for the safe, efficient, and sustainable movement of people, goods, and services, while ensuring that surrounding communities, which includes Areas of Persistent Poverty and Opportunity Zones, benefit from this project.

The project will address critically needed steel repairs to both South Grand Island structures of I-190 and will make safety improvements to the deck of the southbound structure. Additionally, it will incorporate resiliency design improvements allowing it to survive a 2500-year seismic event. This project will also incorporate improvements to re-open the sidewalk on the southbound bridge to pedestrians and bicyclists and adds amenities to enhance connectivity, navigation, and comfort for non-motorized travel on the bridge.

Rehabilitating the South Grand Island Bridges on the Niagara Thruway will provide a long-term improvement to this corridor, maintain community connections across I-190, enhance the overall safety for motorists and improve the quality of life for residents in this area. It will mitigate air quality concerns, upgrade mobility and community connectivity and decrease the need for repeated maintenance. Therefore, I respectfully request that you give the Thruway Authority’s BIP application a full and fair consideration. Please feel free to contact me if I can be of any further assistance on this matter.

Very truly yours,

William B. Magnarelli  
 Member, NYS Assembly  
 129<sup>th</sup> District

WBM/cms



THE ASSEMBLY  
STATE OF NEW YORK  
ALBANY

COMMITTEES  
Education  
Energy  
Local Governments  
Science & Technology  
Tourism, Parks, Arts & Sports Development

WILLIAM C. CONRAD, III  
Assemblymember 140<sup>th</sup> District  
Erie County, Niagara County

Aug. 18, 2022

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I write in support of the New York State Thruway Authority's \$25 million U.S. Department of Transportation Bridge Investment Program (BIP) Grant application.

The BIP Grant will supplement the cost of a project to rehabilitate both South Grand Island Bridges on a section of the Niagara Thruway (I-190).

The Niagara Thruway is a 21-mile segment of interstate that connects the City of Buffalo (Erie County) to the City of Niagara Falls (Niagara County). This segment serves as a vital corridor for commerce, connecting points between the United States and Canada, and local communities in between. The project will address critically needed steel repairs to both South Grand Island structures of the I-190, incorporate resiliency design improvements allowing this essential transportation link to actively serve in its intended life network purpose following a 2500-year seismic event, and perform safety improvements to the deck of the southbound structure. Additionally, this project will perform improvements to re-open the sidewalk on the southbound bridge to pedestrians and bicyclists and will include amenities to enhance connectivity, navigation, and comfort for non-motorized travel on the bridge.

Each year, there are 13 million trips taken on this section, which connects the Town of Tonawanda to Grand Island. The BIP grant will help provide for the safe, efficient and sustainable movement of people, goods and services, while ensuring that surrounding communities, which include Areas of Persistent Poverty and Opportunity Zones, benefit from this project.

Rehabilitating the South Grand Island Bridges on the Niagara Thruway will provide a long-term improvement to this corridor, maintaining community connections across I-190 and enhancing the overall safety for motorists and the quality of life for residents in this area. It will mitigate air quality concerns, upgrade mobility and community connectivity, and decrease the need for repeated maintenance which increase traffic disruptions. Again, I urge USDOT's support for this project. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

William C. Conrad III

RENE D'AMICO  
11/1/22



THE ASSEMBLY  
STATE OF NEW YORK  
ALBANY

RANKING MINORITY MEMBER  
Veterans' Affairs Committee

COMMITTEES  
Codes  
Housing  
Judiciary  
Labor

Tourism, Parks, Arts and  
Sports Development

ANGELO J. MORINELLO  
Assemblyman 145<sup>th</sup> District

August 18, 2022

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

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Sincerely,

ANGELO J. MORINELLO  
ASSEMBLYMAN, 145<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT



# COUNTY OF ERIE

**MARK C. POLONCARZ**

COUNTY EXECUTIVE

September 1, 2022

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I write in support of the New York State Thruway Authority's \$25 million U.S. Department of Transportation Bridge Investment Program (BIP) Grant application.

The BIP Grant will supplement the cost of a project to rehabilitate both South Grand Island Bridges on a section of the Niagara Thruway (I-190).

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mark C. Poloncarz".

Mark C. Poloncarz  
Erie County Executive



# City of Niagara Falls, New York

Robert M. Restaino  
Mayor

August 17, 2022

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I write in support of the New York State Thruway Authority's \$25 million U.S. Department of Transportation Bridge Investment Program (BIP) Grant application.

The BIP Grant will supplement the cost of a project to rehabilitate both South Grand Island Bridges on a section of the Niagara Thruway (I-190).

The Niagara Thruway is a 21-mile segment of interstate that connects the City of Buffalo (Erie County) to the City of Niagara Falls (Niagara County). This segment serves as a vital corridor for commerce, connecting points between the United States and Canada, and local communities in between. The project will address critically needed steel repairs to both South Grand Island structures of the I-190, incorporate resiliency design improvements allowing this essential transportation link to actively serve in its intended life network purpose following a 2500-year seismic event, and perform safety improvements to the deck of the southbound structure. Additionally, this project will perform improvements to re-open the sidewalk on the southbound bridge to pedestrians and bicyclists and will include amenities to enhance connectivity, navigation, and comfort for non-motorized travel on the bridge.

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Rehabilitating the South Grand Island Bridges on the Niagara Thruway will provide a long-term improvement to this corridor, maintaining community connections across I-190 and enhancing the overall safety for motorists and the quality of life for residents in this area. It will mitigate air quality concerns, upgrade mobility and community connectivity and decrease the need for repeated maintenance which increase traffic disruptions.

Very truly yours,

Robert M. Restaino  
Mayor



OFFICE OF THE TOWN SUPERVISOR  
JOHN C. WHITNEY, P.E.

August 17, 2022

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I write in support of the New York State Thruway Authority's \$25 million U.S. Department of Transportation Bridge Investment Program (BIP) Grant application.

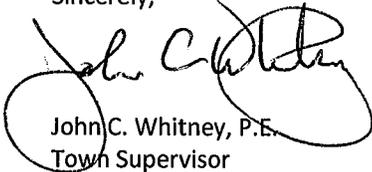
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The Niagara Thruway is a 21-mile segment of interstate that connects the City of Buffalo (Erie County) to the City of Niagara Falls (Niagara County). This segment serves as a vital corridor for commerce, connecting points between the United States and Canada, and local communities in between. The project will address critically needed steel repairs to both South Grand Island structures of the I-190, incorporate resiliency design improvements allowing this essential transportation link to actively serve in its intended life network purpose following a 2500-year seismic event, and perform safety improvements to the deck of the southbound structure. Additionally, this project will perform improvements to re-open the sidewalk on the southbound bridge to pedestrians and bicyclists and will include amenities to enhance connectivity, navigation, and comfort for non-motorized travel on the bridge.

Each year, there are 13 million trips taken on this section, which connects the Town of Tonawanda to Grand Island. The BIP grant will help provide for the safe, efficient, and sustainable movement of people, goods, and services, while ensuring that surrounding communities, which includes Areas of Persistent Poverty and Opportunity Zones benefit from this project.

Rehabilitating the South Grand Island Bridges on the Niagara Thruway will provide a long-term improvement to this corridor, maintaining community connections across I-190 and enhancing the overall safety for motorists and the quality of life for residents in this area. It will mitigate air quality concerns, upgrade mobility and community connectivity and decrease the need for repeated maintenance which increase traffic disruptions.

Sincerely,



John C. Whitney, P.E.  
Town Supervisor



2919 Delaware Avenue - Room 11 • Kenmore, New York 14217 • (716) 877-8804  
Fax: (716) 877-1261

August 31, 2022

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I write in support of the New York State Thruway Authority's \$25 million U.S. Department of Transportation Bridge Investment Program (BIP) Grant application.

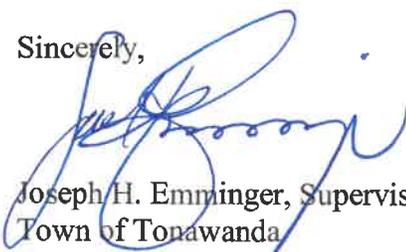
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Sincerely,

  
Joseph H. Emminger, Supervisor  
Town of Tonawanda

"A GREAT PLACE TO LIVE, WORK AND PLAY"



September 20, 2022

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I write in support of the New York State Thruway Authority's \$25 million U.S. Department of Transportation Bridge Investment Program (BIP) Grant application.

The BIP Grant will supplement the cost of a project to rehabilitate both South Grand Island Bridges on a section of the Niagara Thruway (I-190).

The Niagara Thruway is a 21-mile segment of interstate that connects the City of Buffalo (Erie County) to the City of Niagara Falls (Niagara County). This segment serves as a vital corridor for commerce, connecting points between the United States and Canada, and local communities in between. The project will address critically needed steel repairs to both South Grand Island structures of the I-190, incorporate resiliency design improvements allowing this essential transportation link to actively serve in its intended life network purpose following a 2500-year seismic event, and perform safety improvements to the deck of the southbound structure. Additionally, this project will perform improvements to re-open the sidewalk on the southbound bridge to pedestrians and bicyclists and will include amenities to enhance connectivity, navigation, and comfort for non-motorized travel on the bridge.

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Sincerely,



Karen M. Utz  
Regional Director



September 2, 2022

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

**Re: New York State Thruway Authority BIP Grant Application**

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

The Buffalo Niagara Partnership, on behalf of its members who employ over a quarter million people in the region, supports New York State Thruway Authority's \$25 million U.S. Department of Transportation Bridge Investment Program (BIP) Grant application. The BIP Grant will supplement the cost of a project to rehabilitate both South Grand Island Bridges on a section of the Niagara Thruway (I-190).

This segment of interstate connects the City of Buffalo (Erie County) to the City of Niagara Falls (Niagara County). The Thruway and Grand Island bridges serve as vital corridors for commerce, connecting points between the United States and Canada, and local communities in between. Each year, there are 13 million trips taken on this section. The BIP grant will help provide for the safe, efficient, and sustainable movement of people, goods, and services, while ensuring that surrounding communities, which includes Areas of Persistent Poverty and Opportunity Zones benefit from this project.

The project will address critically needed steel repairs to both South Grand Island structures of the I-190, incorporate resiliency design improvements, and perform safety improvements to the deck of the southbound structure. Additionally, this project will re-open the sidewalk on the southbound bridge to pedestrians and bicyclists and will include amenities to enhance connectivity, navigation, and comfort for non-motorized travel on the bridge.

Rehabilitating the South Grand Island Bridges on the Niagara Thruway will provide a long-term improvement to this corridor, maintaining community connections across I-190 and enhancing the overall safety for motorists and the quality of life for residents in this area. It will mitigate air quality concerns, upgrade mobility and community connectivity and decrease the need for repeated maintenance.

Ensuring the continued safe performance of these bridges is critically important to our regional economy. For these reasons, the BNP supports the Thruway Authority's application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dottie Gallagher", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Dottie Gallagher  
President and CEO  
Buffalo Niagara Partnership



Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority  
*Serving Buffalo Niagara*

181 Ellicott Street  
Buffalo, New York 14203  
716-855-7300  
Fax: 716-855-6677

August 17, 2022

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I write in support of the New York State Thruway Authority's \$25 million U.S. Department of Transportation Bridge Investment Program (BIP) Grant application.

The BIP Grant will supplement the cost of a project to rehabilitate both South Grand Island Bridges on a section of the Niagara Thruway (I-190).

The Niagara Thruway is a 21-mile segment of interstate that connects the City of Buffalo (Erie County) to the City of Niagara Falls (Niagara County). This segment serves as a vital corridor for commerce, connecting points between the United States and Canada, and local communities in between. The project will address critically needed steel repairs to both South Grand Island structures of the I-190, incorporate resiliency design improvements allowing this essential transportation link to actively serve in its intended life network purpose following a 2500-year seismic event, and perform safety improvements to the deck of the southbound structure. Additionally, this project will perform improvements to re-open the sidewalk on the southbound bridge to pedestrians and bicyclists and will include amenities to enhance connectivity, navigation, and comfort for non-motorized travel on the bridge.

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Rehabilitating the South Grand Island Bridges on the Niagara Thruway will provide a long-term improvement to this corridor, maintaining community connections across I-190 and enhancing the overall safety for motorists and the quality of life for residents in this area. It will mitigate air quality concerns, upgrade mobility and community connectivity and decrease the need for repeated maintenance which increase traffic disruptions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kimberley A. Minkel", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Kimberley A. Minkel  
Executive Director

Cc: Matthew J. Driscoll, Executive Director, New York State Thruway Authority



August 17, 2022

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I am writing this letter in support of the proposal submitted by the New York State Thruway Authority (NYSTA) for the \$25 million U.S. Department of Transportation Bridge Investment Program (BIP) Grant. The BIP Grant will supplement the cost of a project to rehabilitate both South Grand Island Bridges on a section of the Niagara Thruway (I-190).

The Niagara Thruway is a 21-mile segment of interstate that connects the City of Buffalo (Erie County) to the City of Niagara Falls (Niagara County). This segment serves as a vital corridor for commerce, connecting points between the United States and Canada, and local communities in between. The project will address critically needed steel repairs to both South Grand Island structures of the I-190, incorporate resiliency design improvements allowing this essential transportation link to actively serve in its intended life network purpose following a 2500-year seismic event, and perform safety improvements to the deck of the southbound structure. Additionally, this project will perform improvements to re-open the sidewalk on the southbound bridge to pedestrians and bicyclists and will include amenities to enhance connectivity, navigation, and comfort for non-motorized travel on the bridge.

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Buffalo & Fort Erie Public Bridge Authority  
City of Buffalo  
City of Niagara Falls, New York  
City of Niagara Falls, Ontario  
Erie County

Ministry of Transportation, Ontario  
New York State Department of Transportation  
New York State Thruway Authority  
Niagara County  
Niagara Falls Bridge Commission

Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority  
Niagara Region  
The Niagara Parks Commission  
Town of Fort Erie



The Niagara International Transportation Technology Coalition (NITTEC) is an organization of multiple agencies in Western New York and Southern Ontario, including NYSTA, whose goal is to improve regional and international transportation mobility, promote economic competitiveness and minimize adverse environmental effects related to the regional transportation system.

NYSTA is already collaborating with NITTEC as part of two federally funded projects in the region which impact the proposed highway section. The Buffalo-Niagara Integrated Corridor Management (ICM) project focuses on improvements in operations, traveler information, incident detection, and efficiency. The Advanced Transportation Congestion Management Technology Deployment (ATCMTD) grant project includes objectives to improve regional and bi-national mobility, address commercial vehicle operations and safety, and integrate sources of real-time transportation data through deployment of intelligent transportation system (ITS) technology.

NITTEC strongly feels that the proposed infrastructure rehabilitation is vital to meeting the mobility and safety goals of these other joint efforts.

Please feel free to contact me at 716-847-2450 if you have any questions or need additional information. Thank you in advance for your consideration of this effort.

Sincerely,

Athena M. Hutchins, P.E.  
Executive Director



September 1, 2022

RE: NYSTA – Bridge Investment Program Application – I-190 SGI bridge repairs

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

Dear Honorable Buttigieg,

As representatives of the FAIR (Fair Apportionment of Infrastructure Revenue of Western New York) Committee, we are in total support of the New York State Thruway Authority's grant application seeking federal grant funding from the BIP (Bridge Investment Program) for the Niagara Thruway Interstate I-190, South Grand Island Bridges Rehabilitation.

With the FAIR Committee of WNY representing well over 250 construction companies, engineering firms, material supplier and manufacturers, local trades unions, municipal agencies, specialty subcontractors and trade organizations our members are reliant upon a healthy infrastructure industry that meets the needs of our community and maintains the quality of life for residents in this area.

With over 13 million vehicles per year traveling on these twin bridges over the Niagara River between the Towns of Tonawanda and Grand Island, this route is a critical north-south transportation corridor for Western New York as well as accessing the Canadian border. The safety, efficiency, and reliability of the movement of people and freight on this route is of paramount importance. Rehabilitating the South Grand Island Bridges on the Niagara Thruway will provide a long-term improvement to this corridor as well as upgrade mobility and community conductivity and will decrease the need for repeated routine maintenance with increased traffic disruption. Additionally, this project will perform improvements to sidewalks and bicycle routes to enhance the connectivity, navigation and comfort for non-motorized travel on the bridge structures.

It is with the full support of our membership that we fully support the Grant Application by the New York State Thruway Authority for the Bridge Investment Program for the Niagara Thruway I-190, South Grand Island Bridges Rehabilitation.

Respectfully, Your FAIR Co-Chairs,

Brad Buyers

Sam Capitano

Ryan Forrestel

Fair Apportionment of Infrastructure Revenue  
2660 William Street, Cheektowaga, NY 14227  
(716) 874-3435 Fax: (716) 875-4412



**New York Roadway and Infrastructure Coalition**

111 Washington Avenue, Suite 501  
Albany, New York 12210  
(518) 436-0786  
office@wearenyric.org  
[www.wearenyric.org](http://www.wearenyric.org)

Executive Committee

**John T. Cooney, Jr.**  
Construction Industry  
Council of Westchester  
& Hudson Valley, Inc.

**Michael J. Elmendorf**  
Associated General  
Contractors of NYS

**John T. Evers, PhD.**  
ACEC New York  
American Council of  
Engineering Companies

**Daniel J. McGraw**  
International Union of  
Operating Engineers

**Patrick Purcell**  
LECET - NYS Laborers

**Robert G. Wessels**  
General Contractors  
Association of New York

**Marc Herbst**  
*President*  
*Long Island Contractors Association - LICA*

**Ross Pepe**  
*President-emeritus*

**Felice Farber**  
*Treasurer*

**Stephen Morgan**  
*Secretary*  
**Featherstonhaugh,**  
**Wiley & Clyne**

August 18, 2022

The Honorable Peter Buttigieg, Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave, S.E.  
Washington D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Bettigieg:

The New York Roadway Infrastructure Coalition (NYRIC) strongly supports the New York State Thruway Authority's \$25 million U.S. Department of Transportation Bridge Investment Program (BIP) Grant application.

The BIP Grant will supplement the cost of a project to rehabilitate both South Grand Island Bridges on a section of the Niagara Thruway (I-190).

The New York Roadway Infrastructure Coalition (NYRIC) is a statewide coalition of New York's highway, mass transit and water infrastructure builders, trade unions and project designers that advocate, educate and lobby political leaders to adequately fund New York's vast and aging infrastructure.

The Niagara Thruway is a 21-mile segment of interstate that connects the City of Buffalo (Erie County) to the City of Niagara Falls (Niagara County). This segment serves as a vital corridor for commerce, connecting points between the United States and Canada, and local communities in between. The project will address

critically needed steel repairs to both South Grand Island structures of the I-190, incorporate resiliency design improvements allowing this essential transportation link to actively serve in its intended life network purpose following a 2500-year seismic event, and perform safety improvements to the deck of the southbound structure. Additionally, this project will perform improvements to re-open the sidewalk on the southbound bridge to pedestrians and bicyclists and will include amenities to enhance connectivity, navigation, and comfort for non-motorized travel on the bridge.

Each year, there are 13 million trips taken on this section, which connects the Town of Tonawanda to Grand Island. The BIP grant will help provide for the safe, efficient, and sustainable movement of people, goods, and services, while ensuring that surrounding communities, which includes Areas of Persistent Poverty and Opportunity Zones benefit from this project.

Rehabilitating the South Grand Island Bridges on the Niagara Thruway will provide a long-term improvement to this corridor, maintaining community connections across I-190 and enhancing the overall safety for motorists and the quality of life for residents in this area. It will mitigate air quality concerns, upgrade mobility and community connectivity and decrease the need for repeated maintenance which increase traffic disruptions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Marc Herbst', written in a cursive style.

Marc Herbst  
President, NYRIC



August 18, 2022

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

The Niagara Thruway is a 21-mile segment of interstate that connects the City of Buffalo (Erie County) to the City of Niagara Falls (Niagara County). This segment serves as a vital corridor for commerce, connecting points between the United States and Canada, and local communities in between. The project will address critically needed steel repairs to both South Grand Island structures of the I-190, incorporate resiliency design improvements allowing this essential transportation link to actively serve in its intended life network purpose following a 2500-year seismic event, and perform safety improvements to the deck of the southbound structure. Additionally, this project will perform improvements to reopen the sidewalk on the southbound bridge to pedestrians and bicyclists and will include amenities to enhance connectivity, navigation, and comfort for non-motorized travel on the bridge.

Each year, there are 13 million trips taken on this section, which connects the Town of Tonawanda to Grand Island. The U.S. Department of Transportation Bridge Investment Program (BIP) grant will help provide for the safe, efficient, and sustainable movement of people, goods, and services – while ensuring that surrounding communities, which includes Areas of Persistent Poverty and Opportunity Zones, benefit from this project.

Section 11118 of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL), enacted as the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (Pub. L. 117-58, Nov. 15, 2021), establishing the (BIP). The goals of the BIP are: (1) to improve the safety, efficiency, and reliability of the movement of people and freight over bridges; (2) to improve the condition of bridges in the United States by (a) reducing the number of bridges in poor condition or in fair condition and at risk of falling into poor condition within the next 3 years, (b) reducing the total person miles traveled over bridges in poor condition or in fair condition and at risk of falling into poor condition within the next 3 years, (c) reducing the number of bridges that do not meet current geometric design standards or cannot meet the load and traffic requirements typical of the regional transportation network, and (d) reducing the total person miles traveled over bridges that do not meet current geometric design standards or cannot meet the load and traffic requirements typical of the regional transportation network; and (3) to provide financial assistance that leverages and encourages non-federal contributions from sponsors and stakeholders involved in the planning, design, and construction of eligible projects.

Rehabilitating the South Grand Island Bridges on the Niagara Thruway will provide a long-term improvement to this corridor, maintaining community connections across I-190 and enhancing the overall safety for motorists and the quality of life for residents in this area. It will mitigate air quality concerns, upgrade mobility and community connectivity, and decrease the need for repeated maintenance which increase traffic disruptions.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Anthony B. Spada, Jr.".

Anthony B. Spada, Jr.  
President-Chief Executive Officer



**Kendra Hems**  
*President*

7 Corporate Drive  
Clifton Park, NY 12065  
P 518.458.9696  
nytrucks.org

September 2, 2022

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

On behalf of the Trucking Association of New York (TANY) I am writing to support the New York State Thruway Authority's \$25 million U. S. Department of Transportation Bridge Investment Program (BIP) Grant application.

The BIP Grant will supplement the cost of a project to rehabilitate both South Grand Island Bridges on a section of the Niagara Thruway (I-190).

The Niagara Thruway is a 21-mile segment of interstate that connects the City of Buffalo (Erie County) to the City of Niagara Falls (Niagara County). This segment serves as a vital corridor for commerce, connecting points between the United States and Canada, and local communities in between. The project will address critically needed steel repairs to both South Grand Island structures of the I-190, incorporate resiliency design improvements allowing this essential transportation link to actively serve in its intended life network purpose following a 2500-year seismic event, and perform safety improvements to the deck of the southbound structure. Additionally, this project will perform improvements to re-open the sidewalk on the southbound bridge to pedestrians and bicyclists and will include amenities to enhance connectivity, navigation, and comfort for non-motorized travel on the bridge.

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kendra L. Hems".

Kendra L. Hems

August 25, 2022

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I write in support of the New York State Thruway Authority's \$25 million U.S. Department of Transportation Bridge Investment Program (BIP) Grant application.

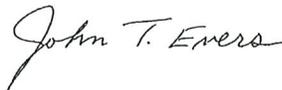
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Sincerely,



John T. Evers, PhD.  
President & CEO, ACEC New York.

CC: Representative Brian Higgins, Senator Charles Schumer, Senator Kirsten Gillibrand.



**ASSOCIATED GENERAL CONTRACTORS  
OF NEW YORK STATE**



MICHAEL J ELMENDORF II  
PRESIDENT & CEO

August 17, 2022

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I write in support of the New York State Thruway Authority's \$25 million U.S. Department of Transportation Bridge Investment Program (BIP) Grant application.

The BIP Grant will supplement the cost of a project to rehabilitate both South Grand Island Bridges on a section of the Niagara Thruway (I-190).

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'MJE', followed by a long horizontal flourish.

Michael J. Elmendorf II  
President & CEO  
Associated General Contractors of New York State