

August 1, 2023

The Honorable Senator Elizabeth Warren  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510-2106

Re: **Replacement of Bourne & Sagamore Bridges**

Dear Senator Warren:

I appreciate your correspondence sent to the Town of Bourne regarding the replacement of the Bourne and Sagamore Bridges. As the President and CEO of the Cape Cod Canal Region Chamber, located in Bourne, we remain vigilant in advocating for these bridge replacements. Our Chamber, along with the Cape Cod Chamber, initiated a coalition of legislative leaders, Cape Cod Commission, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and all fifteen local chambers on the Cape. The Coalition met for a period of about 4 years to push for a consensus on this issue. There is widespread support throughout the Cape and beyond.

We appreciate your steadfast support, especially for the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act., the bipartisan Infrastructure Law. We understand this legislation provided the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers with \$17.1 billion in new funding, including \$11.6 billion for new construction.

We believe your support is critical to making this project happen. We must not wait any longer to begin final design, permitting and funding approvals. The Sagamore and Bourne bridges are over 90 years old - two of the four oldest in the Army Corps' inventory. They are "structurally deficient" or "functionally obsolete" and qualify for replacement under federal guidelines. They have no modern safety features such as lane separation, shoulders, and pedestrian or bicycle separations. The travel lanes are two feet narrower than modern design standards and cannot accommodate the same vehicle capacity as the adjoining roadways – creating bottlenecks.

Increasing maintenance needs result in regular traffic flow restrictions. This is no longer a summer problem - Cape area residents are sitting in Canal area gridlock year-around.

I am pleased to respond to your questions regarding the vital role of the bridges in our community:

- 1. What impact has the state of disrepair of the bridges had on your community to date, including the impact of previous closures of the bridges? a. What are the economic impacts to tourism, local workers, businesses, families, and community members?**

Due to ongoing maintenance of both bridges, there has been and continues to be a detrimental impact on the economy. During the spring and fall season, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers needs to make certain repairs to both bridges in order to keep them safe and operating in an efficient manner. We understand the need for public safety. The ongoing repairs leading to one lane in each direction on the bridges cause untenable traffic congestion, particularly on major highways leading to the bridges. This is a public safety problem to cause travelers to wait in traffic for two or more hours. Everyone suffers under this scenario. Community members and families cannot get to their destinations. Businesses are also severely impacted when the bridge is undergoing maintenance. As the prominent local chamber located in Bourne, we hear tragic stories of businesses losing money due to this type of continuous construction.

- 2. What have the impacts been to the community at large, such as supply chains and the availability and accessibility of retail goods and other items that that come across the bridges? Does the state of the bridges make it more difficult or more expensive for residents to have access to everyday items?**

There is no question that truck deliveries, UPS, Fed Ex, and USPS is impacted by the traffic congestion. Deliveries are late, residents cannot shop or will not leave their homes, and local roads due to Waze causes perceived "shortcuts" that clog up the local roads instead of the highways.

- 3. What are the benefits of replacing the bridges? a. How will replacing the bridges benefit the economy, tourism, businesses and local industries, and the community at large?**

Replacing the bridges will completely eliminate the ongoing maintenance and traffic congestion. Being able to cross the new bridges will reduce the congestion and, thus, contribute to an improved economy. If for some reason, one bridge goes down for repairs or maintenance, the economy of the town of Bourne, the entire Cape, and the state of Massachusetts would suffer tremendously. An evacuation due to a global threat is another reason the bridges need to be replaced.

- 4. What would the future impacts be on your community if the bridges do not get replaced, and they continue to deteriorate:**

As stated above, ongoing maintenance into the future would require both bridges to be repaired constantly. Both the spring and fall seasons of having yearly ongoing maintenance are by far the most disturbing. Again, this is a serious public safety issue for 90-year-old bridges.

- 5. What are the job creation and economic benefits of the bridge replacement project to your community?** Although during the long-time construction, there will be temporary impacts to the local economy. Mitigation funds must be available to help the communities surrounding the bridges deal with eminent domain takings and interruption of services. However, in the long run, the creation of jobs for this enormous project will benefit the surrounding communities.

The Cape Cod Canal Region Chamber has a strong relationship with local, state, and federal officials and remains a prominent force to ensure the new bridges get built. I appreciate your steadfast support!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Marie Oliva". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Marie" and last name "Oliva" clearly distinguishable.

Marie Oliva  
President & CEO