



City of Gustavus
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September 25, 2024

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I am writing in support of Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities' (DOT&PF) application for the FY25 Bridge Investment Plan (BIP) Planning grant for an Off-System Bridges (OSB) Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) Study. The study would be used to evaluate critical bridges in our community or region, including the bridges listed below as six of 384 off-system bridges in Alaska that would be eligible for a future BIP Large/Bridge Project award to advance safety and state of good repair for historically neglected infrastructure in Alaska.

<u>Facility Carried</u>	<u>Feature Connected</u>	<u>Built year</u>
Good River Road	Good River	1984
Spruce Lane	Spruce Lane Bridge	2014
Tong Road	Tong Road Bridge	2015
Good River Road	Harry Hall Creek	2015
Grandpa's Farm Road	Harry Hall Creek	2022
Dickey Drive	Crane Flats Creek	2016

Ultimately, the goal of this project is to identify barriers to repair and replacement of the bridges listed above, plan for applicable improvements to bridges, and prioritize improvements, resulting in an off-system bridge network that is overall more resilient in the face of climate change and increased climate-related events. This is a priority for our community.

The bridges contribute to the overall health and wellbeing of the City of Gustavus, keeping our population connected to health and public safety facilities, as well as ensuring the consistent flow of goods and services supporting our economy.

For these reasons, I request your full and fair consideration of Alaska DOT&PF's application.

Sincerely,

Shelley K. Owens
Mayor of Gustavus