

GUS M. BILIRAKIS
12TH DISTRICT, FLORIDA

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION
AND COMMERCE, RANKING MEMBER
SUBCOMMITTEE ON HEALTH
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COMMUNICATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0912

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April 23, 2021

The Honorable Peter DeFazio
Chairman
Committee on Transportation
And Infrastructure
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington D.C. 20515

The Honorable Sam Graves
Ranking Member
Committee on Transportation
And Infrastructure
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington D.C. 20515

Dear Chair DeFazio and Ranking Member Graves:

I am requesting funding for the Dunedin Causeway Bridge project in surface transportation reauthorization legislation.

The project sponsor for this project is the Pinellas County Government and the project is located on Dunedin Causeway Boulevard, from Royal Stewart Arms Parkway on Honeymoon Island to the intersection of Gary Place/Gary Circle on Ward Island in Dunedin, FL 34698.

The funding is designated for the Dunedin Causeway Bridges project, which consists of the replacement of the Main Bridge with a new, two-lane mid-level movable bridge and replacement of the Tide Relief Bridge with a new, two-lane low-level fixed bridge. Both the main and tide relief bridges do not meet the current engineering standards for resisting damage from high waves during significant storms and vessel impact. Ongoing maintenance and repair of the main bridge machinery also impacts reliability and results in traffic delays. Major rehabilitation or replacement of both bridges is needed to keep the bridges open and the main bridge operating efficiently.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer dollars and is anticipated to have the following benefits: Located on the Gulf Coast of Florida, Pinellas County is home to nearly one million residents, with an additional 15.5 million visitors each year, including seasonal residents and tourists. The City of Dunedin and Honeymoon Island State Park brings value both economically and as a favorite destination for citizens and visitors to enjoy natural Florida. Honeymoon Island has a direct annual economic impact of \$150 million to the county. The Dunedin Causeway

located along the existing bridges is a popular area for citizens and visitors to enjoy recreational activities such as walking, jogging, and biking on the designated trail and swimming, kayaking, paddle boarding, and fishing in the Intracoastal Waterway. The new bridge design will better accommodate these outdoor activities residents and visitors partake in when visiting the Causeway, with wider and safer bicycle lanes, sidewalks, and trails.

The Dunedin Causeway Bridges project directly aligns with Pinellas County's Strategic Plan goal to Foster Continual Economic Growth and Vitality by investing in infrastructure to meet current and future needs, and in doing so, providing safe and efficient transportation systems to support the efficient flow of motorists, commerce, and regional connectivity.

I certify that neither I nor my immediate family has any financial interest in this project.

Sincerely,



Gus M. Bilirakis
Member of Congress
Date: April 23, 2021