

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1806

April 27, 2021

Chairman Peter DeFazio
Committee on Transportation and
Infrastructure
2165 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Ranking Member Sam Graves
Committee on Transportation and
Infrastructure
2164 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 2055

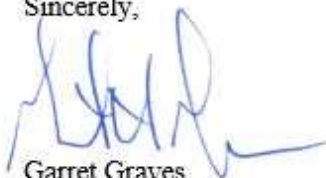
Dear Chair DeFazio and Ranking Member Graves:

I write to request funding for the MRB South GBR: LA 1 to LA 30 Connector (Environmental Evaluation) project in surface transportation reauthorization legislation. The project sponsor for this project is the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development and the completed bridge project will be located in the Baton Rouge Metropolitan Area (East Baton Rouge, West Baton Rouge, Iberville, and Ascension Parishes).

The funding is designated to support the Environmental Evaluation phase of this project, anticipated to be an EIS which culminates in a Record of Decision for a new bridge alignment. The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer dollars and will enable the larger \$1.182 billion project to continue through its critical planning stages. An additional crossing of the Mississippi River between the existing Sunshine Bridge and Horace Wilkinson Bridge will provide additional connectivity and capacity across the Metro-Baton Rouge area. Despite a modest population, Baton Rouge is annually rated with some of the worst traffic nationwide, including the 18th worst truck bottleneck in the country. The existing I-10 river crossing near downtown Baton Rouge is also the only instance where the interstate funnels down into a single lane. This has significant national implications on decreased freight efficiency as this corridor is part of extensive multi-modal network for ports, waterways, and rail networks in South Louisiana and along the Gulf Coast.

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

Sincerely,



Garret Graves
Member of Congress