

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 (Pre-Engineering Design) 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 Pre-Engineering Design phase of this project which will establish definitive right-of-way and utility impacts as well as provide critical information leading to construction of the new bridge. This 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 18<sup>th</sup> 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