



HENRY McMASTER
GOVERNOR

November 3, 2023

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary
Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I am writing to express my support for the South Carolina Department of Transportation's (SCDOT) Bridge Investment Program (BIP) application for the I-95 Lake Marion Bridge Replacement Project.

The project will replace the existing, functionally obsolete bridges and roadway approaches on I-95 over Lake Marion in rural South Carolina. It will improve safety and reliability for users, including residents, interstate travelers, and freight transporters, all of which support the economic prosperity of the region, state, and nation. The structure will be designed to accommodate a large water main line for the Lake Marion Regional Water System to provide reliable, clean water to communities on the north side of the lake. This will not only help serve disadvantaged communities but will also provide the foundation for economic development in Clarendon County.

As a nationally and regionally significant project, the replacement of the I-95 bridges across Lake Marion will ensure a critical linkage in the nation's transportation network and increase the efficient flow of people and goods along the eastern seaboard from Maine to Florida while serving as a catalyst for the expansion of commerce and jobs in the region. These needed improvements will reduce accidents and congestion by adding compliant shoulders and improving line of sight while lowering maintenance costs. In addition, this project will strengthen our state's resiliency plan by incorporating current and enhanced design standards to allow the bridges to operate during natural disasters, including hurricanes, which often impact South Carolina.

Thank you for your consideration of SCDOT's BIP Large Bridge Grant application. Should you have any questions regarding this matter, do not hesitate to call on me.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Henry McMaster".

Henry McMaster

HDM/jm