

April 6, 2020

Secretary Elaine L. Chao
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

Please accept this letter of support on behalf of Pinellas County Government for consideration of the Dunedin Causeway Bridges project to be selected for funding through the Department of Transportation for National Infrastructure Investment's BUILD Transportation Grant. The project involves the construction of a tide relief bridge and mid-level movable bridge in place of the two existing bridges of which are the sole connection from the City of Dunedin to Honeymoon Island State Park and residential living. The completion of the project will address critical structural and functional deficiencies of the existing bridges.

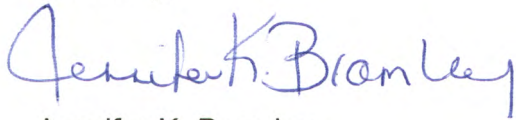
Located on the Gulf Coast of Florida, Pinellas County is home to nearly one million residents, with an additional 15.5 million visitors each year, including seasonal residents and tourists. The County values the significance the City of Dunedin and Honeymoon Island State Park brings to the community, both economically and as a favorite destination for citizens and visitors to enjoy natural Florida.

Honeymoon Island State Park is enriched with serene beaches, bountiful wildlife and natural vegetation and is also the ferry terminal for access to another unspoiled state park, Caladesi Island. 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 Causeway is also home to several small business vendors that support these recreational activities or offer food and beverage options. The new bridge design will better accommodate the outdoor activities residents and visitors partake in when visiting the Causeway, with wider and safer bicycle lanes, sidewalk and trail for walking, jogging and biking.

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Pinellas County government confidently supports investing in the longevity of the Dunedin Causeway Bridges. The project directly aligns with the 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.

Sincerely,



Jennifer K. Bramley
City Manager

cc: City of Dunedin Commissioners
Douglas Hutchens, Deputy City Manager
Jorge M. Quintas, P.E., PW & Utilities Director / City Engineer
Joan M. Rice, P.E., Multi-Modal Safety, Pinellas County Traffic