



Dunedin Causeway Bridge Project Development

Dunedin, FL

D. Letters of Support

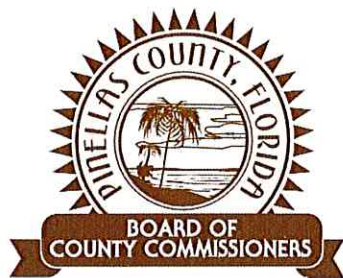
Bridge Investment Program (BIP)
Grant Application

SEPTEMBER 2022

Contact

Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners

Mona R. Gabriel, P.E., CCM
mgabriel@pinellascounty.org
(727)464-3763



CHARLIE JUSTICE
COMMISSIONER

PINELLAS COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

PHONE (727) 464-3363 • FAX (727) 464-3022 • 315 COURT STREET • CLEARWATER, FLORIDA 33756
www.pinellascounty.org

August 16, 2022

Secretary Pete Buttigieg
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

Please accept this letter of support on behalf of Pinellas County Government for consideration of the design costs for the Dunedin Causeway bridges replacement project to be selected for funding through the U.S. Department of Transportation for the 2022 Bridge Investment Program. The overall project consists of replacing the existing bridges with a tide relief bridge and mid-level movable bridge. The bridges are the sole connection from the City of Dunedin to Honeymoon Island State Park and residential living. The grant funding request is for design fees only as construction is not anticipated to begin until 2025-2026.

The Dunedin Causeway provide access to Honeymoon Island, which has the second biggest economic impact of state parks in Florida with 1.6 million annual visitors, over \$140 million in direct economic impact and nearly 2,000 jobs supported. Honeymoon Island is also the ferry terminal for access to another unspoiled state park, Caladesi Island. 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 importance of maintaining the Causeway is well documented and understood by the citizens and local governments. The proposed new bridge will meet all current safety standards and provide enhanced bicycle and pedestrian facilities. The need for frequent repairs will be eliminated.

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 shoreline along the Causeway brings to the community, both economically and as a favorite destination for citizens and visitors to enjoy natural Florida.

Pinellas County government confidently supports investing in the longevity of the Dunedin Causeway. 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,

Charlie Justice
Chairman, Pinellas County Commission
Commissioner, At-Large District 3



ATTEST: KEN BURKE, CLERK

By:

APPROVED AS TO FORM

By: Brendan Mackesey
Office of the County Attorney

FORWARD PINELLAS

P: (727) 464.8250

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forwardpinellas.org

310 Court Street

Clearwater, FL 33756



September 1, 2022

Secretary Pete Buttigieg
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

RE: Dunedin Causeway Bridges Funding – 2022 Bridge Investment Program

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of Forward Pinellas, the metropolitan planning organization (MPO) for Pinellas County, I am requesting U.S. Department of Transportation funding for Pinellas County Government's application for design costs for the Dunedin Causeway bridges replacement project through the 2022 Bridge Investment Program. The overall project consists of replacing the existing bridges with a tide relief bridge and mid-level movable bridge. The bridges are the sole connection from the City of Dunedin to Honeymoon Island State Park and residential developments along the Dunedin Causeway. The grant funding request is for design fees only as construction is not anticipated to begin until 2025-2026.

The Dunedin Causeway bridges provide access to Honeymoon Island, which has the second biggest economic impact of state parks in Florida with 1.6 million annual visitors, more than \$140 million in direct economic impact, and nearly 2,000 jobs supported. Honeymoon Island is also the ferry terminal for access to another unspoiled state park, Caladesi Island. The Dunedin Causeway is a popular area for residents 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 importance of maintaining the Causeway is well documented and understood by the citizens and local governments. The proposed new bridge will meet all current safety standards and provide enhanced bicycle and pedestrian facilities that link to the 75-mile Pinellas Trail Loop around the entire county.

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. Forward Pinellas has been working closely with the Florida Department of Transportation, Pinellas County Government, the City of Dunedin, and the Florida Division of State Parks to advance funding for safety and congestion relief along the Dunedin Causeway, including an expanded entrance to Honeymoon Island State Park. The bridges replacement design and construction will complement those improvements, which are occurring in the current fiscal year and FY23-24.

Forward Pinellas clearly recognizes the need for improvements to the Dunedin Causeway bridges for reasons of economic vitality, resilience, and quality of life. The project is consistent with our policy emphasis of Enhancing Beach Community Access, which is one of three major emphasis areas adopted by the Forward Pinellas Board in 2015 and reaffirmed in 2021, and is a pillar of the adopted 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan. Thank you for your consideration of this letter of support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Whit Blanton', is written over a light blue rectangular background.

Whit Blanton, FAICP
Executive Director

August 25, 2022

Secretary Pete Buttigieg
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of the City of Dunedin, please accept this request and letter of support for allocation of the U.S. Department of Transportation 2022 Bridge Investment Program for design to replace the Dunedin Causeway bridges. The overall project consists of replacing the existing bridges with a tide relief bridge and mid-level movable bridge. The bridges are the sole connection from the City of Dunedin to Honeymoon Island State Park and residential living. The grant funding request is for design fees only as construction is not anticipated to begin until 2025-2026.

The City of Dunedin is approximately 23 square miles on the west coast of the Gulf of Mexico in Pinellas County. Incorporated in 1926, Dunedin takes pride in our history of promoting our natural environment with year-round outdoor fun. The City values the significance the shoreline along the Causeway brings to the community, both economically and as a favorite destination for citizens and visitors to enjoy natural Florida.

The Dunedin Causeway provides access to Honeymoon Island, which has the second biggest economic impact of state parks in Florida with 1.6 million annual visitors, over \$140 million in direct economic impact and nearly 2,000 jobs supported. Honeymoon Island also serves as the ferry terminal for access to another unspoiled and historical state park, Caladesi Island. 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.

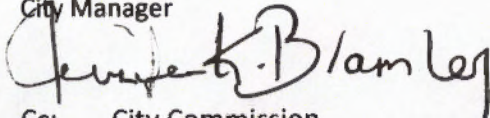
The importance of maintaining the Causeway is well documented and understood by the citizens and local governments. The proposed new bridge will meet all current safety standards while providing enhanced

and safe bicycle and pedestrian facilities. Updating this critical artery will eliminate frequent repairs that currently are required of the aging 60-year-old infrastructure.

If selected for this grant, the City of Dunedin is committed to our involvement and making the project a success.

Respectfully,

Jennifer K. Bramley
City Manager



Cc: City Commission
Jorge M. Quintas, PE, Deputy City Manager