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May 8, 2024

The Honorable Steve Womack Chair Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Committee on Appropriations U.S. House of Representatives Washington D.C. 20515 The Honorable Mike Quigley
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing
and Urban Development, and Related
Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Womack and Ranking Member Quigley,

I am requesting funding for Sugarloaf Boulevard Bridge Replacement Project in Fiscal Year 2025.

The entity to receive funding for this project is Monroe County Florida located at 1100 Simonton Street, Key West, Florida 33040.

The funding would be used for the destruction and replacement of Sugarloaf Boulevard Bridge. The 61-year-old bridge is on the national bridge inventory, is structurally deficient, yet is the only access for 258 residences of Lower Sugarloaf to US 1. The work includes demolition of the existing bridge and reconstruction of a replacement along the same alignment, including coral relocation. No additional right-of-way or property acquisition is required. The new bridge will be a single span structure with two 11 ft wide lanes with 2 ½ ft wide shoulders on both sides and a 5-ft wide sidewalk that will be protected by a crashworthy barrier on the west side of the bridge. This is a good use of taxpayer funds because the project will achieve the goals of improving the condition of bridges in poor condition and bridges with substandard geometry by replacing the existing structure with a new, more resilient bridge that meets current geometric standards through the inclusion of shoulders and a protected bicycle/pedestrian sidewalk. The project will increase safety by accommodating pedestrians and bicyclists. The new, more resilient bridge will be in a good state of repair and because it has been designed with consideration given to impacts of future tropical storms it will provide a more reliable means of access to the community through its expected 75-year design life.

The project has a Federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by 23 USC 133.

I certify that I have no financial interest in this project, and neither does anyone in my immediate family.

Sincerely,

Congressman Carlos A. Gimenez Florida's 28th Congressional District