

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0926

March 22, 2021

The Honorable Peter DeFazio
Chairman
House Transportation and Infrastructure
Committee
2134 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-3704

The Honorable Sam Graves
Ranking Member
House Transportation and Infrastructure
Committee
1135 Longworth House Building
Washington, DC 20515-2046

Dear Chair DeFazio and Ranking Member Graves:

I am requesting funding in the amount of \$4,200,000 for the Card Sound Bridge Replacement Planning and Design Project in surface transportation reauthorization legislation.

The project sponsor for this project is Monroe County, Florida and the project is located at 58070 Car Sound Rd, Key Largo, FL 33037.

The funding is designated for completing the project development and environment (PD&E) and engineering design and permitting work to prepare for replacement of the Card Sound Bridge. The 52-year old bridge is a fracture critical, high level structure that spans the Intracoastal Waterway in north Key Largo, FL. It is located on Card Sound Road, which is one of two roadways that connect the Florida Keys to the mainland. The route is used by workers who commute to the Keys from the City of Homestead to work and it serves as an evacuation route for residents from the entire Keys in the event of a hurricane.

The project will fulfill NEPA requirements, secure environmental permits and provide design plans and construction documents necessary to construct the new bridge. The new structure will be designed to current standards, including evaluation to meet updated wind speed and wave forces. The result will be more resilient transportation infrastructure along this critical route, which will secure access to and from the Florida Keys for goods, services and the traveling population.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer dollars and is anticipated to have the following benefits: the funding will be used to complete the project development and environment (PD&E) and engineering design and permitting work to prepare for replacement of the Card Sound Bridge. The 52-year old bridge is a fracture critical, high level structure that spans the Intracoastal Waterway in north Key Largo, FL. This route is one of only two roadways that

connect the Florida Keys to the mainland and is used by workers who commute to the Keys from the City of Homestead to work and it serves as an evacuation route for residents from the entire Keys in the event of a hurricane.

I certify that neither I nor my immediate family has any financial interest in this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Carlos A. Gimenez', with a stylized, cursive script.

Carlos A. Gimenez
Member of Congress