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By Appointment



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

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April 29, 2022

The Honorable David E. Price
Chairman
Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing
and Urban Development,
and Related Agencies
2108 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mario Diaz-Balart
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Transportation,
Housing and Urban Development,
and Related Agencies
374 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Township of Middletown NJ
1 Kings Highway
Middletown, NJ 07748
middletownnj.gov

Dear Chairman Price and Ranking Member Diaz-Balart:

I write to respectfully request Community Project Funding for the Kings Highway Pedestrian Safety Improvements project in Middletown, NJ in my Congressional District.

Middletown has five designated historic districts which are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The town was settled in 1665 and originally laid out in a grid with Kings Highway dividing the pattern. The Kings Highway area was the heart of one of the oldest settlements in New Jersey and was significant in both the Revolutionary War and the Civil War.

Because it was first laid out nearly 400 years ago, it is ill-equipped to handle today's modern pedestrian, bicycle and vehicular traffic. Therefore, the Township of Middletown is requesting funding for pedestrian safety improvements along Kings Highway from the township's municipal building to the Middletown Train Station.

This project's scope of work will take place on Kings Highway and four other streets surrounding the Middletown Train Station—a popular walking destination for commuters and travelers. On an average weekday, approximately 1,262 riders use the Middletown Train Station which offers service on NJ Transit's New Jersey Coast Line, providing service directly to New York Pennsylvania Station and Newark Pennsylvania Station. As a large, suburban township, this train line provides an ideal form of alternative transportation to major employment centers, like New York City and Newark.

The scope of work to be performed includes the excavation and remediation of deteriorated sidewalks; the creation of new sidewalks where none exist; the installation of ADA-ramps and detectable warning surfaces; the installation of a modular concrete retaining wall; and the installation of split-rail fencing, where necessary. Additionally, the Township portion of Kings Highway from Highway 35 at the new Town Hall to New Monmouth Road will be reconstructed/repaved.

All of these improvements will allow for the creation of a safer and more complete sidewalk network for pedestrians accessing the Middletown Train Station, Middletown Village Elementary School, Town Hall, and the Middletown Public Library. New historic street lighting is proposed along the route from Town Hall to the train station.

Per the attached detailed budget, the inclusive project estimated cost is \$997,500.

I respectfully request that you give the Middletown Township, NJ Kings Highway Pedestrian Safety Improvements project all due consideration for Community Project Funding when preparing your FY23 THUD Appropriations Act. Please feel free to reach out to me should you have any questions.

I certify that neither I nor my immediate family has any financial interest in this project. I appreciate the Committee's due consideration of this project.

Sincerely,



CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH
Member of Congress