



Kathryn A. DeFillippo, Chair
Mary D. Ameen, Executive Director

April 21, 2021

The Honorable Chris Smith
2373 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Smith:

I am writing regarding the proposed inclusion of funding for Channel Drive Revitalization Project in Point Pleasant Beach in the next surface transportation reauthorization legislation.

As the Metropolitan Planning Organization for northern and central New Jersey, the North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority (NJTPA) oversees the region's Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). It is our understanding that the House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee requires assurance that any projects funded through the reauthorization legislation that are not currently in the TIP can and will be added to it. This letter serves to provide that assurance.

It is our understanding that the funding for the project will be used to enhance multi-modal transportation along the route, which serves residents and the thousands of tourists who visit Point Pleasant Beach. It will include signage, new lighting, streetscaping, bicycle racks, and wider sidewalks to accommodate safer pedestrian traffic. The project will address the road's drainage issues and enhance accessibility for people with disabilities, meeting ADA standards.

This project is fully consistent with *Plan 2045: Connecting North Jersey*, the current long-range plan for the NJTPA region. *Plan 2045* encourages investing federal transportation funds to improve bicycle and pedestrian safety and to strengthen economic activity and tourism. It also calls for investments which "improve connectivity for walking and biking trips and also complement other transportation improvements."

Given this project's consistency with our long-range plan, the NJTPA would be able to add it to the Transportation Improvement Program in a reasonable timeframe should it receive federal funding.

Thank you for your ongoing support of federal transportation investment in the NJTPA region.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Mary D. Ameen' in a cursive script.

Mary D. Ameen
Executive Director