

CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH
4TH DISTRICT, NEW JERSEY

CONSTITUENT SERVICE CENTERS:

OCEAN

Visit: 33 Washington Street
Toms River, NJ 08754
Mail: PO Box 728
Toms River, NJ 08754
(732) 504-0567

MONMOUTH

1715 Highway 35 North
Suite 303
Middletown, NJ 07748
(732) 780-3035



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

CHAIRMAN, CONGRESSIONAL EXECUTIVE
COMMISSION ON CHINA

CHAIRMAN, GLOBAL HEALTH, GLOBAL
HUMAN RIGHTS, AND INTERNATIONAL
ORGANIZATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE

CO-CHAIRMAN, TOM LANTOS HUMAN RIGHTS
COMMISSION

SENIOR MEMBER, HOUSE FOREIGN AFFAIRS
COMMITTEE

www.chrissmith.house.gov

May 9, 2024

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
H-307, U.S. Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
H-307, U.S. Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Steve Womack
Chairman
Subcommittee on Transportation,
Housing and Urban Development
and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
2358-A Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mike Quigley
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Transportation,
Housing and Urban Development,
and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
1036 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Cole, Ranking Member DeLauro, Chairman Womack, and Ranking Member Quigley,

I am writing you to request your consideration to fund the Cross Street Safety and Streetscape Improvements in Lakewood, N.J, the fifth largest city in the state and located in New Jersey's Fourth Congressional District. This project will bring critical safety and economic improvements to a busy thoroughfare and associated intersections that connects the heavily trafficked Route 9 with the East Veterans Highway.

The Cross Street Corridor contains a mix of residential housing, industrial and commercial businesses, as well as multiple education facilities, with further smart growth anticipated in the coming years. At present, Cross Street needs significant streetscape improvements, to both protect the local community due to the increase in vehicular traffic and promote smart and safe growth. The County plans to improve the roadway and access points to the corridor in the coming years, and completion of this project would support local efforts to advance sustainable growth and improve traffic safety.

This project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds as it is in keeping with the stated goals of the Community Development Block Grant program by meeting a compelling local need for much-needed roadway, streetscape, and safety improvements, and safety precautions to facilitate continued economic development. This program has a federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by Chapter 42 U.S.C. Section 5305(a)(2).

Lakewood Township is requesting \$6,000,000 for the planning, engineering, permitting, roadway improvements, stormwater, and sewer infrastructure improvements of this project. This project will support complimentary upgrades scheduled to be completed by the State and localities to meet the demands of vehicular traffic in keeping with the published smart growth plan.

As you may know, New Jersey is the most densely populated state in the country, and it is noteworthy that Lakewood is the fastest growing municipality in the State. If not properly addressed, this type of growth can exacerbate congestion and outpace plans for adequate housing and related upgraded infrastructure. This funding request helps meet both those needs by providing much needed improvements to the central artery bridging large portions of the town. Lakewood is an Urban Enterprise Zone, qualifying it further under the CDBG program by meeting one of the three statutorily defined national objectives.

In a letter included in this submission, the Mayor of Lakewood, Raymond Cole, states “I fully support this request as the project will have a profound positive impact on service provision for residence and businesses within the project area. The proposed improvements include roadway and stormwater infrastructure, which are necessary to meet the current demands of the existing traffic and support future development.”

In addition to strong support from the State, County, and Municipal levels, the project is widely supported by community organizations. Moshe Gleiberman, Vice President of Operations, for Beth Madrash Govoha (BMG)—a New Jersey Institution of Higher Learning located in Lakewood since it’s founding 80 years ago—states “I fully support this request as the project will have a profound positive impact on the residents and businesses of the area. The upgrades will improve safety and reduce congestion, which will enhance the quality of life for all residents and facilitate easier access to services and amenities.”

Federal funding on this project will truly be well spent and lead to a significant benefit to the Township’s and the County’s goals to improve regional traffic and safety.

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

I appreciate the Committee’s due consideration of the proposal.

Sincerely,



CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH
Member of Congress