

**CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH**  
4TH DISTRICT, NEW JERSEY

CONSTITUENT SERVICE CENTERS:

**MONMOUTH**  
112 Village Center Drive  
Freehold, NJ 07728-2510  
(732) 780-3035

**MERCER**  
4573 South Broad Street  
Hamilton, NJ 08620-2215  
(609) 585-7878

**OCEAN**  
405 Route 539  
Plumsted, NJ 08514-2303  
(609) 585-7878  
By Appointment



**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**

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April 27, 2021

The Honorable Peter DeFazio  
Chairman  
Committee on Transportation &  
Infrastructure  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2134 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Sam Graves  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Transportation &  
Infrastructure  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1135 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman DeFazio and Ranking Member Graves:

I am writing to urge your support for federal funding for the Mercer County Bus Purchase (DB #D1011) project to be included in the 2021 Surface Transportation Authorization legislation.

This local initiative already identified on the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC) Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for Fiscal Years 2020-2023 allows for the replacement of buses used to operate the Mercer County New Jersey transportation support program known as TRADE, i.e. *Transportation Resources To Aid The Disadvantaged And Elderly*. A non-emergency transportation service for Mercer County residents who are elderly (ages 60+) and for people with disabilities, TRADE fills the gap and assists individuals who require transportation to maintain their health, improve their financial status, utilize various public and private programs and services (medical, therapeutic, recreational) and access other community resources.

The Project Sponsor for the TRADE Program is the government of Mercer County and the office for this program is located in West Trenton, New Jersey. The TRADE Program is available to serves my constituents who reside in Mercer County.

Transportation alternative services such as TRADE are essential for many residents and require federal support to fulfil their needs. The full amount needed for this project is \$915,000 for Fiscal Year 2022. The amount would provide for the replacement of three (3) small cutaway buses, five (5) standard cutaway buses, and three (3) extended cutaway standard floor buses.

I appreciate the Committee's due consideration of this project and all Member Designated Projects submitted as part of the Surface Transportation Authorization Legislation.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Chris Smith". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "C" and "S".

CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH  
Member of Congress