



Office of the Superintendent
MIDDLETOWN TOWNSHIP PUBLIC SCHOOLS
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Mary Ellen Walker, Superintendent of Schools

April 27, 2021

Representative Chris Smith
4th Congressional District
112 Village Center Drive, 2nd floor
Freehold, NJ 07728

Re: *Federal Stimulus Money Application*

Dear Congressman Smith,

Please accept this letter as Middletown Township Public Schools' support for the funding of the Middletown Township's plans to improve and redevelop the Koleda Property. This property is located near two of the Township's most actively used recreational areas, Shadow Lake and Poricy Park. The project will provide much needed access to these areas and will result in a clean up of property that has soil contamination as a result of the previous ownership and historic uses.

The proposed new driveway will be utilized by the immediately adjacent District elementary school, River Plaza School, in a way that will assist in the flow of vehicular and school bus traffic. Historically, River Plaza School traffic has been very congested and we believe the additional access will result in overall improved traffic circulation and safety.

The District is aware that the Township has received a 1 million dollar *Safe Routes to School* grant. The grant is currently underway and designed to improve pedestrian safety to and from the elementary school from the southerly direction. This project complements the plans to redevelop the Koleda property as it will provide similar improved access for vehicles and pedestrians traveling the area and accessing the school from the northerly direction.

Sincerely,



Mary Ellen Walker
Superintendent of Schools