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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

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www.chrissmith.house.gov

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 write to you today to respectfully request funding for the Koleda Park Improvement Project in the 2021 Surface Transportation Authorization legislation.

The Township of Middletown, New Jersey (with offices located at 1 Kings Highway, Middletown, NJ 07748) is the sponsor of the project located at the northeast corner of Hubbard Avenue and Navesink River Road in the Township, in my congressional district.

Because of safety needs and educational and recreation opportunities, the project has been endorsed by the Township Superintendent of Schools, the County of Monmouth and Middletown's State Senator, Declan O'Scanlon, to name a few.

Funding for the Koleda Park Improvement project is an appropriate and valued use of federal support as it will help the Township convert a vacant land area to open space parkland with a properly managed parking lot that will ensure better management and increased safety for people already visiting the area—and parking haphazardly—as they enjoy a nearby lake, pond and other educational and recreational venues.

The future park sits across the street from Poricy Park Pond, a natural wildlife area which hosts a variety of fishing, recreation and historic education programs. Similarly, the property is located approximately 300 yards west of Shadow Lake, a major recreational destination for fishing and boating. Both of these outdoor venues lack sufficient space for safe public access. Plans for the Koleda Park include the construction of a parking area, that will be ADA compliant, and will service the new park and visitors to the pond and the lake and provide a

new driveway which will allow access from both Hubbard Avenue and Navesink River Road.

With better and safer access, the Township envisions increased use of the lake for recreational boating and fishing which they hope will result in the restoration of trout stocking. Other future recreational amenities which may be added to Koleda Park include a playground and basketball court.

The park improvement plan also includes connecting the driveway of Koleda Park to the rear of River Plaza Elementary School, which is located on land deeded to the school district by the Koleda family in the early 1900's. This small roadway addition will provide substantial congestion relief to the school ingress and egress and pedestrian safety for students at morning arrival and afternoon dismissal.

Due to its rich history in farming and greenhouses, the project includes minor soil remediation to ensure maximum public safety and pristine environmental access.

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, appearing to read "Chris Smith", is written over a light blue circular watermark that contains the text "KOLEDA PARK".

CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH
Member of Congress