

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

CO-CHAIRMAN, TOM LANTOS HUMAN RIGHTS
COMMISSION

SENIOR MEMBER, FOREIGN AFFAIRS
COMMITTEE

RANKING MEMBER, AFRICA, GLOBAL
HEALTH, GLOBAL HUMAN RIGHTS, AND
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
SUBCOMMITTEE

WESTERN HEMISPHERE SUBCOMMITTEE

RANKING MEMBER, CONGRESSIONAL-
EXECUTIVE COMMISSION ON CHINA

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 **Channel Drive ADA Compliance Upgrade and Surface Revitalization project** to be included in the 2021 Surface Transportation Authorization legislation. The project sponsor is the Borough of Point Pleasant Beach, and the project is located along a five-block area of Channel Drive in Point Pleasant Beach, Ocean County, New Jersey 08742.

Though this Channel Drive waterfront area is home to several marinas, fishing supply stores, a commercial fishing fleet, charter boat fishing, dinner cruises and local restaurants, it is currently challenging to access in a wheelchair because it lacks ADA-approved amenities.

Known as the Seafood Capitol of New Jersey, Point Pleasant Beach draws hundreds of thousands of tourists to its world-renowned seafood restaurants, fish markets and annual Seafood Festival. The Borough hosts a diverse group of businesses and family-friendly tourist attractions, such as a thriving boardwalk that includes a first-class aquarium, rides, arcades, and a mile-long sandy beach.

The **Channel Drive ADA Compliance Upgrade and Surface Revitalization project** will help to make this family-friendly section safer for all and especially more welcoming to persons with disabilities by installing easily accessible six-foot-wide sidewalks, ADA compliant ramps, curbing, benches, bike racks, signage, stormwater catch basins and improved lighting and landscaping.

This five-block area of Channel Drive runs from the intersection with Broadway (County Route 635) at the easterly end and the intersection with Broadway (County Route 635) at the

westerly end. Channel Drive is near State Route 35 (running North and South) and the New Jersey Transit North Jersey Coast Line.

This project is an appropriate use of taxpayer dollars as it will make current businesses and attractions accessible to those with disabilities; enhance overall pedestrian safety by providing walkways and adequate lighting where there currently is none; all which will ultimately benefit numerous local businesses which have been devastated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

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, flowing style.

CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH
Member of Congress