



Kathryn A. DeFillippo, Chair  
Mary D. Ameen, Executive Director

April 26, 2021

The Honorable Chris Smith  
2373 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Smith:

I am writing regarding the proposed inclusion of funding for the Koleda Park Improvement Project in Middletown Township in the next surface transportation reauthorization legislation.

As the Metropolitan Planning Organization for northern and central New Jersey, the North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority (NJTPA) oversees the region's Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). It is our understanding that the House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee requires assurance that any projects funded through the reauthorization legislation that are not currently in the TIP can and will be added to it. This letter serves to provide that assurance.

It is our understanding that the funding for the project will be used to provide access to Poricy Park Pond, a local attraction for a variety of recreation and historic education programs. This project would provide needed parking, which would help reduce the need for visitors to park on neighborhood streets.

This project is fully consistent with *Plan 2045: Connecting North Jersey*, the current long-range plan for the NJTPA region. *Plan 2045* encourages investing federal transportation funds to provide access to natural resources and recreation.

Given this project's consistency with our long-range plan, the NJTPA would be able to add it to the TIP in a reasonable timeframe should it receive federal funding.

Thank you for your ongoing support of federal transportation investment in the NJTPA region.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Mary D. Ameen'.

Mary D. Ameen  
Executive Director