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

CHAIRMAN, CONGRESSIONAL EXECUTIVE  
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CHAIRMAN, GLOBAL HEALTH, GLOBAL  
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COMMISSION

SENIOR MEMBER, HOUSE FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
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March 31, 2023

The Honorable Kay Granger  
Chairwoman  
Committee on Appropriations  
H-307, U.S. Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
H-307, U.S. Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Tom Cole  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Transportation,  
Housing and Urban Development  
and Related Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
2358-A Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mike Quigley  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Transportation,  
Housing and Urban Development,  
and Related Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
1036 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair Granger, Ranking Member DeLauro, Chairman Cole, and Ranking Member Quigley,

I am writing you to request your consideration to fund the **Carey Street Extension and Signalization Project** in Lakewood, N.J., the fourth largest city in the state, located in my congressional district. This project will begin critical improvements to the college section of the town and its two schools of higher learning, Georgian Court University and Beth Medrash Govoha (BMG). (BMG is the fifth largest private college in New Jersey.)

The Carey Street Extension and Signalization Project will provide infrastructure needed to support downtown expansion, as the immediate area is being developed into critically needed housing units. Core components of the project include road, sidewalks, traffic signal and street lighting, as well as upgrades to drinking water mains, sewers, and storm water management, in addition to critical streetscape features. This project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds as it is in keeping with the stated goals of the Community Development Block Grant program by meeting a compelling local need for much-needed roadway, streetscape, and safety improvements, and safety precautions to facilitate rapid economic development. This program has a federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by Chapter 42 U.S.C. Section 5305(a)(1).

Lakewood Township is requesting \$1,061,469 so it can start this project, with the township prepared to match up to 20 percent of the request. This project has the dual benefit of

helping to reduce student commuting traffic on nearby, heavily congested U.S Route 9 by building several hundred rental housing units, as well as helping address the acute housing shortage.

As you may now, New Jersey is the most densely populated state in the country, and it is noteworthy that Lakewood is the fastest growing municipality in the State. This type of growth comes with congestion and a demand for adequate housing—especially rentals—and related upgraded infrastructure. This funding request helps meet both those needs. Lakewood is an Urban Enterprise Zone, qualifying it further under the CDBG program by meeting one of the three statutorily defined national objectives to principally benefit low- and moderate-income persons.

In addition to strong support from the State, County, and Municipal levels, the project is widely supported by community organizations. In a letter included in this submission, the social services non-profit organization Lakewood Resource and Referral Center, which assists families every day who are seeking help in finding housing in the current housing shortage—particularly rental housing—this project would:

*“install the necessary public roads and infrastructure enabling the construction of much-needed housing units for young families in the college area, thereby freeing up competition for housing units in other parts of town as well. The proposed project is vitally important for low- and moderate-income household in Lakewood and we support and encourage it fully.”*

In another supporting letter, the President of Lakewood’s affordable housing developer, New Jersey Housing and Neighborhood Development Inc. (NJHAND), said this project:

*“will alleviate the severe housing shortage present in the township rental market, ease traffic congestion by taking commuters off the most congested roads and open a new thoroughfare and exit roads from the college district. NJHAND Inc. has developed over 350 affordable housing units in Lakewood, which consisted of six phases. Over 5,000 families [emphasis added] applied for these units, but only 350 were available. Obviously, there is a tremendous need for housing in Lakewood.”*

Federal funding on this project will truly be well spent and lead to a significant benefit to the Township’s and the County’s goals to improve regional traffic and help meet the serious housing demand for students and families in this fast-growing community.

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

I appreciate the Committee’s due consideration of the proposal.

Sincerely,



CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH  
Member of Congress