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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 that funding for the replacement of the **Route 35 Bridge Over the North Branch of Wreck Pond** be included in the 2021 Surface Transportation Authorization legislation. The project is located in my district at Route 35 milepost 18.2 in Wall Township, New Jersey, and the sponsor is the New Jersey Department of Transportation.

The purpose of this project is to replace the current bridge which has been deemed structurally deficient and functionally obsolete. Built in 1931, the current structure is in dire need of replacing.

The importance of Route 35 to the greater Southern Monmouth County community and economy cannot be overstated. This State highway is a major thoroughfare connecting numerous towns, and it also serves as an evacuation route during times of perilous storms. Economically, the highway in the project area is home to scores of businesses, and as well as provides a conduit to millions of visitors to the New Jersey shore.

The **Route 35 Bridge Over the North Branch of Wreck Pond** replacement project is an appropriate use of taxpayer dollars as it will result in a safer and more resilient byway which will effectively service this bustling economic area for decades to come.

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 have any financial interest in this project.

Sincerely,

CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH
Member of Congress