

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3218

May 6, 2013

Commissioner Joan McDonald
New York State Department of Transportation
50 Wolf Road
Albany, NY 12232

Dear Commissioner McDonald:

I am writing you regarding the pending submission by the New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) to the U.S. Department of Transportation for the Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER 2013) competitive grant program. I understand that NYSDOT was successful in the last round by focusing on critical projects for the benefit of the people of New York State. I request inclusion in your request for funding of the New York State Route 17, Exit 131 project (Project Identification #: 800684) located in Orange County.

This project meets many primary selection criteria of TIGER 2013; it would greatly improve the existing system, significantly contribute to the economic competitiveness of the region and State as it serves Woodbury Common, and is currently listed on the 2011-2015 Orange County Transportation Council Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to demonstrate project readiness. This project has also been submitted by NYSDOT Region 8 for consideration under the Strategic Enhancement Program (STEP).

The Exit 131 project is vital. It sits at the intersection of SR 17 / Future I-86 and SR 32, and is adjacent to the Harriman Toll Barrier to the New York State Thruway System. As you are aware, Exit 131 was included in the Route 17 Transportation Corridor Study (Project Identification #: 800695) undertaken by NYSDOT in which the heaviest current traffic volumes exist immediately near Exit 131 and are expected to increase in the future.

The Exit 131 project would not only accommodate this increased traffic volume, but also the proposed renovation of Woodbury Common. The proposed renovation of Woodbury Common, which also includes the construction of an additional 60,000 square feet of retail space, is expected to generate 300 to 500 construction jobs, create 400 new retail jobs, generate approximately \$5.5 million in additional sales tax, and an additional \$700,000 in property tax. Clearly, these renovations and the jobs and increased revenue will have a positive economic impact throughout the region.

It is for all of these reasons that I strongly urge your consideration of this project when applying for funding through the TIGER 2013 program on behalf of the State of New York. The improvement of this interchange is one of the most critical transportation projects in the Hudson Valley that is long overdue and ready to be completed.

Sincerely,



Sean Patrick Maloney
Member of Congress