

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

January 25, 2013

The Honorable Ray LaHood
Secretary
Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary LaHood:

I am writing in support of New York State's application for Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (TIFIA) funding for the Tappan Zee Bridge replacement project. The Tappan Zee Bridge is critical fixture in the lives of folks in New York's 18th Congressional District and the economy of the Hudson Valley. I urge you to approve their application without delay.

Every day tens of thousands of commuters from the Hudson Valley rely on this bridge to take them to work. Every night, those same folks rely on the bridge to deliver them home safely. However, the Tappan Zee is outdated and increasingly less safe. The bridge currently has an accident rate twice that of any other portion of the New York State Thruway.

Aside from safety, the Tappan Zee adds unnecessary delay to my constituents' commute, costing them and the economy time and money. The new design for the Tappan Zee Bridge will reduce congestion with new transit capabilities, expanded lanes for vehicles, and designated paths for bicyclists and pedestrians.

This project will also spur much needed economic growth and create tens of thousands of new jobs. Given the significance of this vital infrastructure, the replacement of the Tappan Zee Bridge is undoubtedly one the most important transportation concerns for the region and the country.

As a new member of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, I applaud your leadership on the TIFIA program and your focus on improving our nation's transportation infrastructure. I respectfully request that you approve New York's TIFIA application immediately so that this important project can begin. On behalf of the people of the Hudson Valley, I thank you for your consideration of my request. Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,



Sean Patrick Maloney
Member of Congress