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PAUL D. TONKO

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
20TH DISTRICT, NEW YORK

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE
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MANUFACTURING, AND CRITICAL MATERIALS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON ENERGY, CLIMATE, AND GRID SECURITY
SUBCOMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND INVESTIGATIONS
COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE,
AND TECHNOLOGY

May 24, 2024

The Honorable Amit Bose
Administrator
Federal Railroad Administration
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Administrator Bose:

I write in support of the proposal from the New York State Department of Transportation to the Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements Program for the Livingston Avenue Bridge Project. This project will replace the existing railroad bridge over the Hudson River between the Cities of Albany and Rensselaer.

The Livingston Avenue Bridge, located on the Empire Corridor, provides the only upstate New York passenger rail crossing over the Hudson River and is vital to connecting all points west from Niagara Falls to New York City by rail. This project will fortify this critical link for passenger rail service in New York State while unlocking unprecedented opportunities for access to the Albany and Rensselaer River fronts.

The current bridge is a barrier to the public safely accessing the riverfronts. The improved layout for the new bridge helps reconnect these communities to the Hudson River waterfront area in downtown Albany through the construction of a separated shared use path. The path will link the notable pedestrian thoroughfares of the Albany Skyway and Empire State Trail across the Hudson with the future Rensselaer Riverwalk and the continuation of the Empire State Trail in Rensselaer. The shared use path will also provide a direct connection from the City of Albany to the Albany-Rensselaer Amtrak Station, improving transportation options and reducing traffic.

I have long supported the Livingston Avenue Bridge Project. It will unite our communities while strengthening our economy and providing key services to residents across the Capital Region. Your full and fair consideration of this request, consistent with current laws, rules, regulations, and agency policy, is appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Paul D. Tonko".

PAUL D. TONKO
Member of Congress

PDT/npl