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RANKING MEMBER



Nita M. Lowey
Congress of the United States

17th District, New York

October 30, 2013

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The Honorable John Porcari
Deputy Secretary
Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Deputy Secretary Pocari:

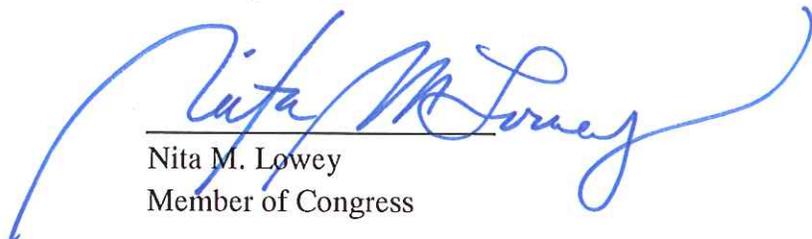
I write to urge you to expedite the consideration of New York State Thruway Authority's TIFIA application to construct the new Tappan Zee Bridge. As you know, the application must be fully reviewed and approved by the Department of Transportation's Credit Council before a final decision can ultimately be made by the Secretary of Transportation.

New York State submitted its formal application to the TIFIA program at the end of September. Unfortunately, the government shutdown prevented the Credit Council from quickly meeting on the application. With the next meeting of the Council scheduled for November 12th, I urge you to call a special session of the Council to consider the application sooner.

Expediting the application is entirely appropriate for a project such as this, which has been selected by President Obama as a project of national significance and has also already received expedited reviews and approvals in other areas. New York State Thruway has also been a good-faith and cooperative partner with the Department, working diligently to decrease the cost of the bridge by \$1.4 billion since the initial letter of interest was submitted last year.

Thank you for consideration of this request. I greatly appreciate all the efforts that the Department has made to work with the State of New York to advance the application and deliver a new bridge to the residents of the Lower Hudson River Valley.

Sincerely,



Nita M. Lowey
Member of Congress