



CAPITAL DISTRICT TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

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March 2, 2022

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary, U.S. Department of Transportation 1200
New Jersey Avenue, S.E.
Washington, DC 20590

Re: Route 4 over the Hudson River RAISE Grant

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing to express the Capital District Transportation Committee's (CDTC) support for the application by the New York State Department of Transportation to the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity, or RAISE Discretionary Grant program, for their US Route 4 over the Hudson River Project. This grant would result in the replacement of a bridge critical to the economies of Saratoga and Washington Counties. CDTC is the Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Capital Region of New York State which includes Saratoga County.

Today, this region of Upstate New York's economy depends on the mobility afforded by this bridge. The bridge carries commuters and a variety of rural roadway users, including farm equipment operators. On average, 5,500 vehicles per day cross the bridge. The bridge crosses the Hudson River and the navigational channel of the Champlain Barge Canal, providing mobility for people and goods by water as well. The bridge is identified as a contributing structure to the National Register-listed and National Historic Landmark Barge Canal Historic District.

The proposal recognizes the substantial benefit of improving existing infrastructure. This bridge project would replace the bridge while maintaining traffic for most of the construction phase.

- The bridge was built in 1917 and is a three-span Warren truss bridge. The bridge has undergone several rounds of repair and is proposed to be replaced.

- The bridge is narrow and has no shoulders, although the bridge carries NYS Bike Route 9, which connects to the Empire State Trail.
- The open grate steel deck and narrow width contribute to a crash rate higher than the statewide average for similar roadways. The adjacent intersection with NY Route 32 causes confusion. The new bridge and intersection will address these concerns, while providing shoulders for bicyclists to traverse the bridge.

This bridge project will ensure that the bridge will function safely and continue to support the economy of the eastern New York region well into the future. I support the application and thank you for your consideration in funding this strategic investment.

Sincerely,

Kathy M. Sheehan, Mayor
Chair, Capital District Transportation Committee