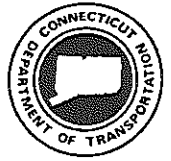


STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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Office of the
Commissioner

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July 18, 2018

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Chao,

The Connecticut Department of Transportation (Department) is pleased to support the application submitted by the towns of East Haddam and Haddam, Connecticut and the Lower Connecticut River Valley Council of Governments (LCRVCOG) under the FY2018 Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Discretionary Grants program for non-motorized access across the East Haddam/Haddam Swing Bridge over the Connecticut River.

The applicants are requesting \$18 million to fund a cantilevered walkway alongside the bridge and approach sidewalks at both entrances to facilitate bicycle and pedestrian access. The proposal would be coordinated with an existing Connecticut Department of Transportation rehabilitation project on the East Haddam/Haddam Swing Bridge which was originally constructed in 1913.

The Swing Bridge is the only connection between the towns of East Haddam and Haddam in this rural part of the State that hosts many tourist destinations and businesses. The proposal will provide much needed alternative transportation options and increased accessibility to the area's marinas, train stations and airports. These linkages are consistent with recommendations outlined in the Department's State Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan and will have a transformative impact on this region.

The Department strongly supports East Haddam, Haddam, and LCRVCOG's efforts to advance this project to enhance mobility in this Connecticut region. Your agency's time and consideration of this matter is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

James P. Redeker
Commissioner