



## East Haddam Planning and Zoning Commission

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Date: July 11, 2018

To: U.S. Department of Transportation – Elaine Chao, Secretary of Transportation

RE: Federal Build Grant 2018 (Better Utilizing Infrastructure to Leverage Development)

Dear Ms. Chao,

We are writing to you to express our Commission's support for the grant application for the cantilevered walkway over the East Haddam Swing Bridge over the Connecticut River. The Connecticut Department of Transportation is proposing bridge repairs on the Swing Bridge in 2020 that could include the walkway if this grant is awarded. Currently there are no sidewalks or any pedestrian provisions to assist tourists, residents, and visitors access to the attractions of the areas on both sides of the Connecticut River.

If the walkway on the Swing Bridge is completed, this much needed pedestrian connection will tie several regional attractions together. It will allow for visitors and residents to cross the Connecticut River safely and access attractions in both Haddam and East Haddam. Connections between shopping, the historic Goodspeed Opera House, the historic Village of East Haddam, Nathan Hale School House, Gelston House Restaurant, River House Restaurant, the Goodspeed Airport, the River Quest Tours, the Essex Steam Train, Clark Creek Preserve, and Eagle Landing State Park will be made accessible with the addition of a walkway on the Swing Bridge.

The addition of a cantilevered walkway will promote regional tourist development and connectivity to many attractions and services within a half mile from another. Not only will these connections have a positive economic impact to the region, better connectivity will enhance the quality of life for many residents and business in the area.

Please support this cantilevered walkway project as it will be a safety enhancement and economic development generator for both towns on the Connecticut River.

Sincerely,

Cary Brownell, Chairman East Haddam Planning and Zoning Commission

CC: Lizz Milardo – Haddam First Selectman  
Liz Glidden – Haddam Town Planner  
Emmett Lyman – East Haddam First Selectman  
Samuel Gold – Director – Lower CT River Council of Governments  
James Ventres – Land Use Administrator