



PO Box 488
Haddam, CT 06438
Phone Number: 860-662-0577
July 6, 2018

Elaine Chao; Secretary of Transportation
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590
United States

Hi Elaine.

This letter is to ask for your support for the federal grant for a walkway on the East Haddam Swing Bridge connecting the towns of Haddam and East Haddam.

Connecticut River Expeditions, our company, offers eco-tours from Eagle Landing State Park. Eagle Landing State Park is located just south of the Swing Bridge on the west side (Haddam) of the river. We have two vessels, RiverQuest and Adventure that bring approximately 12,000 people per year to the park.

We are very excited that the town of Haddam and East Haddam have applied for this grant to build a walkway across the bridge. At present, there is a safety risk crossing the bridge as a pedestrian.

This walkway would give our passengers, and other people from the public, a great way to visit the lovely borough of East Haddam. People could leave their vehicles in the park (where there is plenty of parking), take a nice, healthy, beautiful walk across the bridge to do a little shopping, visit the ice cream shop, eat in one of the restaurants or go to the Goodspeed Opera House.

This walkway would also benefit the East Haddam side of the river, allowing people to walk across the bridge to come for a cruise with us and shop at a unique gift shop, Goodspeed Station. Also, many of the actors from the Goodspeed Opera House walk across the bridge to go to a small grocery store, River Valley Provisions, just up the hill from the bridge, for food and beverage. This is not a safe walk to make at present.

A walkway would also help alleviate vehicle traffic/parking, which can be a problem in East Haddam, particularly when a play is in session. People could leave their vehicle at Eagle Landing State Park.

Thank you for your attention in advance.

Sincerely,

Melinda Hill and Mark Yuknat