



STATE OF NEW YORK
EXECUTIVE CHAMBER
ALBANY 12224

ANDREW M. CUOMO
GOVERNOR

August 20, 2012

The Honorable Ray LaHood
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave SE
Washington DC, 20590

Dear Secretary LaHood:

I am pleased to advise you that today the New York Metropolitan Transportation Council unanimously voted to add the Tappan Zee Bridge replacement project to the regional Transportation Improvement Program. As a result of the vote, I am sending you this letter to formally initiate New York's application for funding under the Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (TIFIA) program.

There is no doubt that the bridge replacement is critical. The Tappan Zee is outdated and unsafe with an accident rate twice that of any other portion of the New York State Thruway, and adds needless congestion for tens of thousands of commuters. The new bridge design is based on public input over the years at hundreds of public meetings and studies of dozens of concepts. It will feature transit capability, expanded lanes, and designated lanes for bikes and pedestrians. It will be safer for drivers, faster for bus commuters, and the project will create tens of thousands of new jobs.

Today's vote is the latest milestone since President Obama's October 2011 Executive Order naming the Tappan Zee project one of a handful in the nation selected for expedited federal review and approval. In July, state and federal agencies completed work on the Environmental Impact Statement, which contains a series of innovative methods to ensure the protection of the unique Hudson River environment and minimize disruption to surrounding communities. The state has already completed a Project Labor Agreement which will save over \$450 million in labor costs, and three international design and construction teams are already competing to build a bridge with a useful life of over 100 years to serve generations of New Yorkers.

Under your leadership, the US Department of Transportation has been integral to the progress of the Tappan Zee replacement project. I am especially appreciative of the efforts of Federal Highway Administration team on the ground in New York. As a critical component of our national infrastructure and the regional economy of the Northeast, the project's importance reaches beyond New York. TIFIA funding is an important component for this project and on behalf of the State of New York, I request your fullest consideration of the Tappan Zee replacement project for all available federal support.

Sincerely,

ANDREW M. CUOMO

