

United States Senate

September 18, 2024

The Honorable Kristin White
Acting Administrator
Federal Highway Administration
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Administrator White:

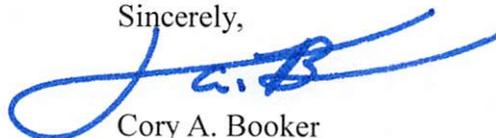
I write in support of the joint application submitted by the New Jersey Turnpike Authority (NJTA) and Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission (PTC) to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Bridge Investment Program for Fiscal Year 2025. This proposed project, phase three of the Pennsylvania Turnpike Interstate 95 Interchange Program, will replace the 69-year-old Delaware River Bridge (DRB). The DRB crosses the Delaware River from Florence, New Jersey to Bristol, Pennsylvania and is the only one of the 1,100 bridges in NJTA's inventory that crosses into a border state.

NJTA and PTC's application includes the final design, construction, and rehabilitation of the Delaware River Bridge as well as mainline improvements on the bridge's approaches, Intelligent Transportation Systems, and tolling systems. Preliminary Engineering and Environmental assessments are underway; construction will begin in 2030-2031. In 2017, one of the bridge's support beams experienced a critical fracture, resulting in a full closure and extensive detours for the then 42,000 daily vehicles—now 67,000—with an anticipated 92,000 by 2050 traveling this section of Interstate 95. The improved structure will have three lanes and full right and left shoulders in each direction—the current structure has two lanes and partial right and left shoulders in each direction. Adding capacity on the shoulders of this bridge will enhance safety immensely for emergency vehicles and passenger vehicles alike.

This application to FHWA is for half of the \$1.47 billion total project cost, with the NJTA and PTC agreeing to pay for the other half. Once completed, this project will boost connectivity and lane continuity in the New York City and Philadelphia Metropolitan Areas, enhance safety by increasing the width of the shoulders, restore the bridge to a state of good repair, and increase resiliency by reducing the size of the piers within the 500-year Delaware River floodplain.

I ask that you give all due consideration to this meritorious grant proposal and thank you in advance for your attention to this important project. Should you have any questions, please contact me or my staff at (973) 639-8700.

Sincerely,



Cory A. Booker
United States Senator