

# CAPITAL DISTRICT TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

One Park Place, Main Floor · Albany, NY 12205-2676  
www.cdtcmpo.org

e-mail: [cdtc@cdtcmpo.org](mailto:cdtc@cdtcmpo.org)

Phone: (518) 458-2161  
Fax: (518) 459-2155

December 2, 2010

Ms. Mary Ivey  
Regional Director  
New York State Department of Transportation Region 1  
328 State Street  
Schenectady, NY 12305

**Subject: Livingston Avenue Bridge**

Dear Mary:

I understand that scoping for the rehabilitation or replacement of the **Livingston Avenue Railroad Bridge** is well underway. I am writing to convey the Capital District Transportation Committee's (CDTC) strong support for the project, as evidenced by previous Policy Board actions. The CDTC added this project to the *Transportation Improvement Program* in 2009 in anticipation of ARRA funding, contingent on restoring pedestrian and bicycle accommodation across the bridge. Not only will this project preserve a critical link in the State and national rail system, but will accomplish this in a manner that supports major community initiatives for waterfront revitalization.

As you know, the Livingston Avenue Bridge represents a critical link in the Capital District's regional trail system, connecting the Mohawk-Hudson Bike-Hike Trail in Albany County and the planned Mickey Mahar Trail in Rensselaer County. Restoring bicycle and pedestrian accommodation on the Livingston Avenue Bridge has been a goal of several local and regional plans completed over the last twelve years. CDTC's REVEST initiative, the joint CDTC/NYS DOT Hudson River Crossing Study, the Rensselaer County Trail Plan - a joint CDTC/Hudson Valley Greenway effort with participation from the City of Rensselaer, Rensselaer County, Town of North Greenbush, and others -- all affirmed the importance of designing a structure to accommodate pedestrians would have for waterfront revitalization on both sides of the river. The *Hudson River Crossing Study*, for example, concluded that "...re-establishment of bicycle and pedestrian access on the Livingston Avenue Bridge should be considered an 'early win' and given the highest priority for implementing an improved bike/ped crossing over the Hudson River. It would provide the most useful and desirable connection between Rensselaer and Albany."

A recent regional initiative spear-headed by Congressman Tonko involved the creation of a regional waterfront task

Chairman  
Mayor John T. McDonald III

Staff Director  
John P. Poorman

Albany County  
Michael G. Breslin  
Daniel P. McCoy

Rensselaer County  
Kathleen M. Jimino  
Martin T. Reid

Saratoga County  
Willard Peck  
Thomas C. Werner

Schenectady County  
Susan E. Savage  
Joe Landry

City of Albany  
Mayor Gerald D. Jennings

City of Cohoes  
Mayor John T. McDonald III

City of Mechanicville  
Mayor Anthony J. Sylvester

City of Rensselaer  
Mayor Daniel J. Dwyer

City of Saratoga Springs  
Mayor Scott T. Johnson

City of Schenectady  
Mayor Brian U. Stratton

City of Troy  
Mayor Harry J. Tutunjian

City of Watervliet  
Mayor Michael P. Manning

Town of Colonie  
Paula A. Mahan

Towns and Villages  
Richard McCabe, E. Greenbush  
Mayor James Gaughan,  
Altamont

Alternates  
Christopher Koetzle, Glenville  
Frank D. Thompson, Milton

Albany County  
Airport Authority  
John O'Donnell

Albany Port  
District Commission  
Terrence P. Hurley

Capital District Regional  
Planning Commission  
Michael E. Stammel

Capital District  
Transportation Authority  
Carm Basile

New York State Dept. of  
Transportation  
Stanley Gee

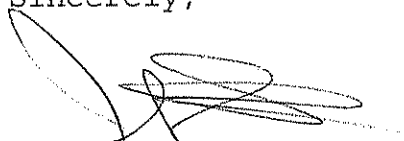
New York State  
Thruway Authority  
William D. Rinaldi

Non-Voting Members  
Mary E. Ivey, NYSDOT Reg. 1  
Brigid Hynes-Cherin, FTA  
Jeffrey W. Kolb, FHWA

force - the Mighty Waters Task Force. The mission of the task force is to find ways to enhance access to the Hudson River and other waterways in the region, preserve infrastructure and green space, and foster sustainable development and tourism. In addition, enhanced public access and recreation are adopted policies contained in the Local Waterfront Revitalization Programs (LWRP) of the Cities of Albany and Rensselaer, and the Town of North Greenbush. A pedestrian and bicycle link across the River connecting the cities of Albany and Rensselaer is considered an important part of revitalization efforts. Access to the Rensselaer Train Station would be improved as well.

I would respectfully ask that you carry this message to the Commissioner. CDTC believes that this is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity that shouldn't be missed. The CDTC staff, along with members of CDTC's Planning Committee and Policy Board, look forward to actively working with the Department and other regional and local stakeholders on this important project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John T. McDonald, III". The signature is fluid and somewhat stylized, with a large loop at the beginning and several overlapping strokes.

John T. McDonald, III  
Mayor, City of Cohoes  
Chairman, Capital District  
Transportation Committee