

December 13, 2021

The Hon. Kathy Hochul
Governor, New York State
Executive Chamber, Office of the Governor
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Hochul:

I am writing to express my enthusiasm in light of Congress' recent passage of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. President Biden recently signed the legislation into law, which represents the largest infrastructure investment in American history. The \$1.2 trillion law provides \$550 billion in new federal funding. Federal funding will be critical in bridging gaps in current projects while delivering New York City a chance to revamp existing infrastructure, encourage climate resilience and provide protections for cyclists and pedestrians. Ensuring that federal funds are distributed equitably is of interest to our entire community. I would like to share my priorities, given that the American Society of Civil Engineers gave New York State a C- on its infrastructure report card.

Specifically, New York State stands to receive approximately \$13.5 billion over five years in Federal highway formula funding for bridges and highways, which represents an increase of approximately 42 percent more than under current law. In addition, the legislation includes \$11.2 billion over five years to improve public transportation, \$6 billion to advance vision zero plans, \$14 billion in expanded *Infrastructure For Rebuilding America* (INFRA) grants for freight infrastructure aid, and \$23 billion in expanded Capital Investment Grants.

Across Brooklyn, Manhattan and Queens, the needs throughout my congressional district are significant. I am proud to have supported the legislation's passage, which brings federal investment to meet our communities' needs. However, this is only the beginning of the process. In light of the law's recent passage, we must work together to ensure that infrastructure funding is allocated appropriately across the board. The state has a unique role now that the federal government has done its part. From bridges and tunnels to public housing, I intend to advocate for equitable distribution of funds to meet the most challenging and immediate needs. Specifically, I look to collaborate with you and your staff to ensure broad funding to:

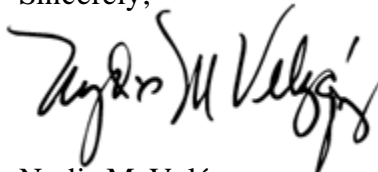
1. Provide Brooklyn-Queens Expressway rehabilitation and associated improvements;
2. Support New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) repairs and upgrades;
3. Construct or rehabilitate accessible transit stations to meet Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards;
4. Improve resiliency and protection of coastal areas, especially in areas exhibiting needs (i.e. Red Hook), that may be addressed by initiatives similar to the Red Hook Coastal Resiliency project;

5. Begin projects to improve stormwater and sewage infrastructure, with an emphasis on reducing backups;
6. Foster improvements and rehabilitation of terminals, ports, piers, docks, and warehouses to support New York's participation in supply chain resiliency projects, similar to the East Coast Marine Highway Initiative's M95 study. Such projects under this category may also include the use of shore power and other infrastructure at Red Hook Terminals to reduce diesel emissions and pollution;
7. Emphasize the importance of pedestrian-centered projects, including the Brooklyn Waterfront Greenway, to increase transportation alternatives;
8. Reduce congestion and pollution on local streets, specifically in local areas connecting major transit arteries to the outer boroughs (i.e. Canal Street corridor connecting Holland Tunnel and the Brooklyn/Manhattan/Williamsburg bridges);
9. Advance vision-zero and Safe Route to Schools-related projects, including the use of traffic calming techniques, to ensure pedestrian safety; and
10. Increase availability of broadband access, including areas and populations identified by both New York State and New York City lacking broadband access.

Given the above, I would like to schedule a meeting with you in January 2022 to discuss my district's priorities that may be eligible for federal funding under the *Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act*. As you know, a number of grants require coordination between the state and the federal entity administering the grant. It is my intent to facilitate these conversations early on to ensure competitive applications that can receive full and fair consideration, consistent with applicable rules, laws, and regulations.

Thank you for considering my request. I look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nydia M. Velázquez", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Nydia M. Velázquez
Member of Congress