

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

March 10, 2022

Administrator Amit Bose
Federal Railroad Administration
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Administrator Bose:

We write in support of Amtrak and the Maryland Transit Administration's application for FY21 Federal-State Partnership for State of Good Repair funding for the Susquehanna River Bridge Project. Amtrak and MDOT MTA's joint application represents an important opportunity to improve commuter and intercity travel and support the long-term sustainability and growth of the region.

The Susquehanna River Bridge is the longest moveable bridge on the Northeast Corridor (NEC) and a critical link for intercity, commuter, and freight connectivity in the Mid-Atlantic region. Built in 1906, the bridge is approaching the end of its service life and will need to be replaced with a new structure to maintain future rail services across the Susquehanna River. The age of the bridge, along with its constriction from four to two tracks, limits the speed and number of trains that can use the bridge.

Amtrak and MDOT MTA are pursuing federal funding to assist in the replacement of the existing Susquehanna River Bridge. This project is necessary to preserve reliability and allow for the future expansion of MARC commuter rail service and Amtrak high-speed service. Additionally, the project will significantly improve the navigation channel for maritime users. The purpose of the Susquehanna River Bridge Project is to achieve a state of good repair, to save passenger travel time, to improve ride comfort, and to improve the reliability and resiliency of rail service along this critical segment of the NEC. Funding from the FY21 Federal-State Partnership for State of Good Repair program will advance the project through final design completion.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. Please do not hesitate to contact our offices if you require any further information on this matter.

Sincerely,



Benjamin L. Cardin
United States Senator



Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator



C.A. Dutch Ruppertsberger
Member of Congress



John P. Sarbanes
Member of Congress



Kweisi Mfume
Member of Congress



Andy Harris, M.D.
Member of Congress



Anthony G. Brown
Member of Congress