



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**Maritime
Administration**

ADMINISTRATOR

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington DC 20590

November 17, 2015

The Honorable Lee M. Zeldin
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Zeldin:

Secretary Foxx asked that I respond to you as a follow up on his letter to you dated June 12, 2015, regarding the Cross Sound Ferry Enhancement Project and its designation as a Marine Highway Project.

The Maritime Administration (MARAD) conducted a thorough review of the project and met with your staff on September 11, 2015, regarding local concerns about the potential for additional truck traffic on Route 25. As a result of that meeting and MARAD's research of the project, I have consulted with Secretary Foxx and directed that the project be amended and all references to the expansion of the service's truck capacity be removed. The enclosed project description reflects these changes. This amendment aligns the project designation with the New York Metropolitan Transportation Commission regional freight plan. In the event that future grants are awarded to this service, MARAD will ensure that the funds are used for purposes that are consistent with the Long Island and Connecticut freight plans, such as re-powering the vessels to reduce their air emissions and/or improving shore-side facilities.

Thank you again for your support of the America's Marine Highway Program. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or Ms. Angela Stroschein in MARAD's Office of Congressional and Public Affairs at (202) 366-5747.

Sincerely,


Paul N. Jaenichen

Enclosure