

June 7, 2011

Secretary Cleon Cauley  
Acting Secretary  
Delaware Department of Transportation  
800 Bay Road  
PO Box 778  
Dover, DE 19901

Dear Secretary Cauley:

As you are aware, significant public funding has financed the redevelopment and partial gentrification of Wilmington's Riverfront, including transportation improvements. The nearby Southbridge neighborhood, however, has received no similar infusion of capital to complete a needed redevelopment. This discrepancy has resulted in visible and increasing socio-economic inequities across South Wilmington.

While we have no concerns with the particulars of DeIDOT's Christiana River Bridge project as publically presented, we would like to point out that the project's location and current scope continues a worrying trend of socially-inequitable transportation spending. At the regional level, WILMAPCO has shown that low-income and minority communities, like Southbridge, do not receive their fair share of transportation dollars. Likewise, as best illustrated by the long delay of bus service to the ShopRite supermarket in South Wilmington, Southbridge residents lack adequate non-auto access to the redeveloped waterfront.

We are writing today to share an opportunity to tackle these issues head-on with the Christiana River Bridge project. The South Wilmington Planning Network encourages DeIDOT to add improved east-west roadway, pedestrian, bicycle and public transit connectivity from the new bridge into Southbridge. This could include roadway, sidewalk, tree line and lighting improvements to Garasches Lane (from South Heald Street to South Walnut Street), streetscape improvements to A Street (as recommended in WILMAPCO's *2008 Southbridge Circulation Study*), and/or constructing a connecting pathway network through a planned park west of Southbridge. Residents of Southbridge should have safe and efficient pedestrian/bicycle access to the new bridge.

Please do not hesitate to contact us to discuss our suggestion further.

Sincerely,

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Bill Swiatek,  
Senior Planner, WILMAPCO  
Chair, South Wilmington Planning Network

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Hanifa Shabazz,  
Councilperson

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Charles A. Madden,  
Executive Director of the HOPE Commission

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Marvin Thomas,  
President of the Southbridge Civic Association

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Veronica Oliver,  
Executive Director of the Neighborhood House

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Rosa Rivera,  
CEO, Henrietta Johnson Medical Center

cc: Drew Boyce, DeIDOT  
Ray Petrucci, DeIDOT  
Tigist Zegeye, WILMAPCO  
Dave Gula, WILMAPCO  
Mayor Baker, City of Wilmington  
Dave Blankenship, City of Wilmington  
Nick Blendy, Federal Highway Administration- Delmar Division