

BRIAN HIGGINS  
27TH DISTRICT, NEW YORK

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON  
BORDER AND MARITIME SECURITY  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON COUNTERTERRORISM  
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NONPROLIFERATION AND TRADE

REVITALIZING OLDER CITIES  
TASK FORCE  
CO-CHAIR

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
Washington, DC 20515-3227

WASHINGTON OFFICE:  
2459 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
(202) 225-3306  
(202) 226-0347 (FAX)

WESTERN NEW YORK OFFICES:  
LARKIN BUILDING  
726 EXCHANGE STREET  
SUITE 601  
BUFFALO, NY 14210  
(716) 852-3501  
(716) 852-3929 (FAX)

FENTON BUILDING  
2 EAST 2ND STREET  
SUITE 300  
JAMESTOWN, NY 14701  
(716) 484-0729  
(716) 484-1049 (FAX)  
higgins.house.gov

February 13, 2012

The Honorable Janet Napolitano  
Secretary, Department of Homeland Security  
3801 Nebraska Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20393

The Honorable Ray LaHood  
Secretary, Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Napolitano and Secretary LaHood,

Thank you again for your significant efforts in preparing and implementing the Beyond the Board Action Plan. As you work with your Canadian partners in preparing a Border Infrastructure Investment Plan progress report, I urge you to include a new second span at the Peace Bridge crossing in Buffalo, New York on your five year prospectus.

In January, the Federal Highway Administration officially ended the environmental review for a proposed Peace Bridge capacity expansion project that would have included both a new second span and a renovated plaza complex. While this process came to an end, and the Buffalo and Fort Erie Public Bridge Authority will commence with a revised plaza renovation project not requiring federal review, the need for a new bridge remains.

The Peace Bridge is already the second busiest border crossing between the United States and Canada. With merely three lanes (and functionally only two with heavy truck traffic), the efficiency of the border crossing will remain an issue. As the principal connection between the New York State Thruway and the Queen Elizabeth Way, the Peace Bridge is strategically located and will continue to be one of the most important economic connections between the United States and Canada in the future.

The need for a second span is clear and the five year Border Infrastructure Investment Plan should clearly contemplate it. I strongly urge you to include such an expansion at the Peace Bridge as you develop the first progress report.

Thank you. I look forward to working with you on this effort.

Sincerely,



BRIAN HIGGINS  
Member of Congress