

Testimony of The Honorable Laura A. Gillen (NY-04)
“Member Day Hearing”
House Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing, and Urban Development
April 9, 2025

Chairman Womack, Ranking Member Clyburn, and Members of the Subcommittee,

Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today to highlight several important issues affecting my constituents in the Fourth Congressional District of New York, on the South Shore of Nassau County on Long Island.

Mr. Chairman, we face a major crisis on our roads on Long Island, with an alarming and unacceptable rise in fatal crashes in recent years. In fact, every seven minutes on Long Island, there is another car accident involving death, injury, or serious property damage. According to *Newsday* more than 2,100 people have been killed and 16,000 have been severely injured in traffic accidents on Long Island’s dangerous roads over the past ten years.

We can and must do more to prevent these terrible tragedies and save lives. That is why I strongly urge members of this subcommittee to increase funding for road safety, including the Bridge Investment Program, Safe Streets and Roads for All Program (SS4A), and the Highway Safety Improvement Program.

Earlier this year, the New York State Department of Transportation released data finding that 10 bridges on Long Island are in poor condition, including a bridge in the Village of Hewlett Harbor in the Fourth Congressional District. We need to increase Bridge Investment Program funding under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act in FY26, and I will be leading a letter with my colleagues urging this Committee to do just that.

In addition, programs like SS4A and the Highway Safety Improvement Program have helped improve and modernize our transportation network, and I am committed to working in a bipartisan manner to continue successful initiatives to prevent fatal accidents and keep Americans safe on our roads.

I also request your support for vital community project funding in FY26, which provides direct Federal assistance to towns across my district to invest in critical infrastructure upgrades that increase the safety and reliability of our transportation system.

I would also like to highlight the critical importance of HUD Economic Development Initiative grants which fall under this subcommittee’s jurisdiction. EDI grants fund a wide range of projects that benefit our communities and help grow our economy.

Last year, the House Appropriations Committee passed an FY25 Transportation, Housing, and Urban Development Appropriations bill which included more than \$21 million for eight projects in the Fourth Congressional District. Unfortunately, this funding -- and \$30 million in direct

funding slated to go to my district -- was ultimately stripped from the full-year FY25 continuing resolution that Congress passed last month.

For FY26, I urge the Committee, and all my colleagues in Congress, to support vital projects in my district and across our country. I know there is strong support for this effort of both sides of the aisle. I will work with anyone, in either party, who's serious about bringing these necessary resources back to Long Island.

Mr. Chairman and Ranking Member, thank you for your time today and for your work on this Committee to help serve the American people. I look forward to working with you and with all of our colleagues to make the communities I represent on Long Island safer, more vibrant places to live.