

Congressman Van Drew

THUD Appropriations Subcommittee Testimony

- Good morning. Thank you, Chairman Womack and Ranking Member Clyburn, for the opportunity to discuss priorities for the FY 2027 Transportation, Housing, and Urban Development Appropriations bill.

- First, I request that the committee continue robust funding for the FAA Technical Center for Advanced Aerospace. This Committee has been good to the Technical Center. I continue to request that we provide robust funding levels for Technical Center laboratories and infrastructure. The work we do there is essential to aviation safety.

- Second, I have five Community Project Funding items to highlight. Below on this page is the full list of the projects, including project submission numbers, before I go into more detail.

#5458 - Middle Township Youth Development Facility Improvements (EDI - \$300,000)

#5567 - Aviation Business Park Electric Utility Connection (EDI - \$5.4 million)

#5457 - Hammonton Airport Improvements (AIP-\$5,399,078) #5602 - EHT Flood-Prone Real Estate Acquisition (EDI- \$1 million) #5577 Reed's Beach Road (FHA - \$800,000)

#5458 - Middle Township Youth Development Facility Improvements (\$300,000)

- My top priority for Community Project Funding across all accounts is Economic Development funding to conduct facility improvements at a Youth Development Facility in Middle Township.

- This project is sponsored by the municipal government of Middle Township and will conduct eligible capital improvements on a beloved community youth development facility that gives young people, often from difficult home environments, athletic training, job training, and important life skills and values. This project is similar to the several YMCA facility projects that the committee funded in last year's bill.

#5567 - Aviation Business Park Electric Utility Connection (\$5.4 million)

- This project requests economic development funds to construct a utility connection between the FAA Technical Center and the National Aviation Research and Technology Park. This project is supported by the Technical Center, who proposed the concept.

- This project has countless economic development benefits. It will help the federal government to access private sector technology, the business park to attract tenants, aviation tech businesses to gain access to affordable energy, and workers to find high value jobs. It will advance work that improves aviation safety and operations at a national level.

#5457 - Hammonton Airport Improvements (\$5,399,078)

- This project requests Airport Improvements Funds to construct taxiway safety improvements, security improvements, parking, and hangar space at the Hammonton Airport. The FAA has verified that this project is eligible.
- This airport has a waiting list of tenants. The improvements will allow the airport to immediately grow and increase activity.
- These improvements will majorly benefit my local agricultural economy – Hammonton is known as the “Blueberry Capital of the World,” and this airport is used for crop spraying. It also will improve the New Jersey State Police Emergency MediVac services based out of Hammonton Airport.

#5577 Reed’s Beach Road (\$800,000)

- Reed’s Beach Road is a small road in Middle Township which suffers regular flooding. This is a simple project, funds will be used to elevate and pave the road to ensure safe and resilient access for residents.
- The New Jersey Department of Transportation and the South Jersey Transportation Planning Organization have both provided letters that this project is eligible to be placed onto the State Transportation Improvement Plan.

#5602 - EHT Flood-Prone Real Estate Acquisition (\$1 million)

- This project will use economic development funds to acquire blighted properties on the Black Horse Pike going into Atlantic City. These properties lie along the highway which connects the mainland to the Atlantic City barrier island, an area with regular flooding.

- Egg Harbor Township has been buying flooded properties, demolishing them, and building flood mitigation structures in their place. This will ensure that fewer people are living in risky areas and will improve the resilience of this important highway infrastructure.

- This project is eligible according to committee guidance, and Egg Harbor Township has put forward \$1 million of their own funds to match against the federal grant.