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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON HEALTH
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SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTHERN
AFRICA
SUBCOMMITTEE ON SOUTH AND CENTRAL ASIA

March 27, 2026

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
H-305, the Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
1036 Longworth HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for the Somerville Borough Downtown Capital Improvements project in Fiscal Year 2027. The entity to receive funding for this project is Somerville Borough, located at 25 West End Avenue, Somerville, New Jersey 08876.

The funding would be used for two complementary capital improvement projects: the Division Street Arts Plaza and the Giardina Walk Improvements. Together, these projects will transform two heavily traveled public corridors into vibrant, safe, and fully accessible pedestrian spaces that anchor Downtown Somerville's arts and cultural identity. **The Division Street project** will reconstruct and enhance the full length of Division Street between South Street and West Main Street, transforming a pass-through corridor connecting New Jersey Transit Train Station to West Main Street into an activated public plaza. Improvements include the installation of brick pavers, granite curbing, ADA-compliant curbing and a new pedestrian crosswalk at the West Main Street intersection. **The Giardina Walk project** will improve the existing pedestrian walkway between Union Street and West Main Street, a key connector between Municipal Parking Lot #4 and Main Street. The project incorporates new and existing assets, including an existing historic mural, existing shade trees, and existing light fixtures, minimizing waste and construction disruption.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because it will transform Division Street, a key connector between New Jersey Transit Somerville Station and West Main Street, into an activated public plaza that will directly support downtown businesses.

The project has a federal nexus because the funding provided is consistent with purposes authorized in 42 U.S.C.5305(a)(1), 5305(a)(2), 5305(a)(4), and/or 5305(a)(5).

I certify that I have no financial interest in this project, and neither does anyone in my immediate family.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "T. H. K. Jr.", written over a horizontal line.

Tom Kean, Jr.
Member of Congress