

CONGRESSMAN PATRICK J. MURPHY
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January 25, 2010

Mr. Kevin Skeels, scudderfallsbridgeecomments@hntb.com
Delaware River Joint Toll Commission
110 Wood & Grove Streets,
Morrisville, PA 19067

Dear Mr. Skeels,

I am writing to express my support the inclusion of a bicycle and pedestrian pathway on the improved Scudder Falls Bridge. A pathway to accommodate bicyclists and pedestrians would enhance the economic, health, recreational, transportation benefits of the overall project. Given the importance of this connection for the regional transportation network and the projected 50 plus year lifespan of the bridge, the long term benefits far outweigh the upfront cost of constructing the path as part of this bridge rebuilding project.

A path on the bridge will greatly enhance tourism, as it will likely lure canal towpath cyclists and hikers south beyond the traditional "turnaround point of Washington Crossing to the passenger rail served communities Yardley Borough and Ewing Township. The connection to the Taylorsville Road Park and Ride will mean that the lot will be well used by trail users on weekend. More importantly, it would expand access to future bus service without the expense of additional automobile parking.

More than 100,000 people live within 5 miles of the Scudder Falls Bridge, attracting a diverse group of trail users including children, mothers pushing strollers, seniors out for a morning walk, casual tourists, joggers and others drawn by the safe route. Residents of our region would also greatly benefit from an additional walking and bicycling route across the Delaware River for commuting. Over 1400 people have signed a petition expressing support for a pathway on this bridge, which was delivered to the Commission in 2009. Given that federal and state transportation policy calls for spending transportation dollars to make communities more livable and sustainable, I support including the pathway in the bridge's final design.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Pat J. Murphy".

Patrick J. Murphy

Member of Congress