



Joe Courtney
Congress of the United States
2nd District, Connecticut

May 23, 2025

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for Mohegan Pequot Bridge Rehabilitation project in fiscal year 2026. The entity to receive funding for this project is the Connecticut Department of Transportation, located at 2800 Berlin Turnpike, Newington, CT 06111.

The funding will be used to address existing bridge deterioration and extend the service life for another 20 years or longer. The Mohegan Pequot Bridge is a two-lane, steel girder bridge built in 1967 that spans the Thames River connecting the towns of Montville and Preston. The purpose of this project is to maintain the bridge in a "State of Good Repair" by improving the structural integrity of the bridge.

The rehabilitation of the bridge will include but is not limited to repairing critical steel components, repairing concrete substructures, installing slope protections to address erosions, replacing guiderail and curbing, removing haunch extensions over railroad and waterway, replacing timber fender system to the current AASHTO design collision loading standards, repairing the fencing on parapets and replace fence fabric over railroads, replacing existing steel rocker bearings with High Load Multi Rotational disc bearings, and replacing pin and hanger assemblies with stainless steel components and non-metallic bushings. The completion of this project ensures that the structural integrity of the bridge is sound, which is critical for safety, reliability, and longevity.

The Mohegan Pequot Bridge is the northernmost crossing over the Thames River and located between Foxwoods Resort Casino and Mohegan Sun, two of the world's largest casino resorts. These entities employ over 5,000 people who utilize this bridge at some point during their regular commute. According to the current Southeastern CT Metropolitan Transportation Plan, for Foxwoods alone, 18,900 vehicles travel north and 12,000 travel south of the casino on Route 2 each day- many of which cross this bridge multiple times a day.

In addition to these major economic drivers, significant regional investments in housing, workforce, and diverse economic development opportunities project further increases in traffic patterns, necessitating strong, reliable, and functional infrastructure. Montville, where the majority of the construction will take place, is ranked within the top 25 distressed municipalities in the state, which is determined by measuring rates of unemployment, job creation, population growth, changes in per capita income, and the condition of housing stock. Completion of this project is instrumental in creating ideal conditions for private investment from local businesses and essential economic growth, supporting a future for the community defined by success and self-determination.

The project has a federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by 23 U.S. Coded 133.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Joe Courtney". The signature is written in a cursive style with a clear, legible font.

JOE COURTNEY
Member of Congress