

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

July 22, 2026

Colonel Eric Swenson
Jacob K. Javits Federal Building
26 Federal Plaza, Room 17-302
New York, NY 10278-0090

Dear Col. Swenson,

As Members of Congress representing communities in both Connecticut and New York that are directly impacted by the hydrodynamics of the Byram River and its bridges, we write to express our serious concern regarding the continued delays to the years-long plan to replace the U.S. Route 1 bridges. While we recognize the complexity of delivering major civil works projects, the repeated setbacks to this long-authorized effort are unacceptable given its importance to public safety and regional resilience.

The Byram River bridges are essential infrastructure connecting communities in Greenwich, Connecticut and Port Chester, New York. Every day, residents, businesses, commuters, and first responders rely on these crossings, making them vital to interstate mobility, emergency response, economic activity, and regional commerce. The surrounding communities, particularly the Pemberwick neighborhood of Greenwich, continue to be at risk for dangerous flooding that threatens lives, homes, businesses, and critical infrastructure.

US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) identified two 19th and 20th-century bridges – the West Putnam Avenue and Hillside Avenue bridges – as major contributors to flooding in the neighborhood. The bridges restrict water flow and thereby induce dangerous flooding upstream in the Pemberwick section of Greenwich. In 2020, six years ago, USACE completed the Byram River Basin Flood Risk Management Feasibility Study, which recommended removing and replacing the two bridges.

In September 2021, Hurricane Ida produced eight inches of rain that resulted in flash floods. Many residents of Pemberwick woke up to basements flooded to the ceiling. We were fortunate that no lives were lost. Replacing these bridges is an important component of improving the region's long-term flood resilience and protecting the public as we enter another hurricane season.

Congress has repeatedly demonstrated its commitment to projects like these. Through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), Congress made an historic investment in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to accelerate critical infrastructure and resilience projects across the country. These investments were intended to move authorized projects from planning to

construction and deliver meaningful public safety benefits to communities without unnecessary delay.

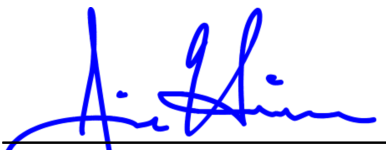
For that reason, we were extremely disappointed to learn that the project schedule has slipped once again. Although the Byram River bridge improvements were authorized years ago in the Water Resources Development Act of 2020, the project remains in the Preconstruction Engineering and Design (PED) phase. We understand that the project has encountered technical and administrative challenges, including design modifications and delays in completing required field investigations. However, the current projection that design may not be completed until 2027—and that additional funding may be necessary to complete the design phase—is deeply concerning. Had Congress been aware that additional resources would be required, we would have welcomed the opportunity to work with the Corps to identify potential funding solutions during development of the Water Resources Development Act of 2026.

The consequences of these delays extend well beyond the project schedule. They represent a massive risk to life and property. Continued delays in replacing these bridges leave surrounding neighborhoods vulnerable to potentially lethal flooding. As storms become more frequent and intense, these vulnerabilities will only grow. Congress intended IJA investments to help communities become more resilient before disasters occur—not after—and every additional delay postpones the protections these communities urgently need.

Accordingly, we request a meeting with you and your staff to discuss the status of the project, the remaining obstacles to completing design and beginning construction, the anticipated construction schedule, and how the Corps is utilizing IJA resources to advance this project. We also request an explanation of any additional resources or authorities that may be necessary to move the project forward without further delay.

In the meantime, we urge the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to prioritize the Byram River Bridge project, expedite all remaining reviews and approvals, coordinate closely with Connecticut and New York state and local officials, and provide regular progress updates to Congress. The residents of our region have waited long enough for these critical improvements, and we look forward to working with you to ensure this project advances as expeditiously as possible.

Sincerely,



Jim Himes
Member of Congress

George Latimer
Member of Congress



Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator



Christopher S. Murphy
United States Senator