

John Joyce, M.D.
13th District of Pennsylvania



Committee on Energy & Commerce

4/23/21

Dear Chair DeFazio and Ranking Member Graves:

I am requesting funding for the Laurel Valley Transportation Improvement Project in the upcoming surface transportation reauthorization legislation.

The project sponsor for this project is the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission and the project is located on PA 981 between Pleasant Unity to Arnold Palmer Airport, within the Mt Pleasant and Unity Townships, Westmoreland County, PA, 15650.

The funding is designated to upgrade the PA 981 corridor from the intersection with PA 819 in Mount Pleasant Township to near the Arnold Palmer Airport in Mt. Pleasant and Unity Townships, Westmorland County.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer dollars and is needed because the existing roadway geometry features of PA 2023 do not meet current design standards and contains the following conditions: nine substandard vertical curves and five vertical grades that do not meet current design standards for the proposed facility type. These deficient standards are hampering efficient and safe movement of people and goods through the corridor. The proposed Arnold Palmer Airport linkage will improve access and connections between established economic assets within Westmoreland County. The Arnold Palmer Regional Airport and adjacent Airpark sit at the northern end of the LVTIP corridor, with SR 981 serving as the primary access for both facilities. Currently, Phase II of the Airpark is being developed to attract and retain businesses and increase jobs in the area. The Westmoreland Logistics Park and intermodal facility (RIDC Westmoreland) is located near the southern end of the corridor along US 119. Due to the current condition of SR 981, freight traffic from this facility often must utilize US 30 (just north of the LVTIP). The congestion on US 30, coupled with the narrow width and geometrics of SR 981, negatively impact the county and region's economic competitiveness. The LVTIP SR 130 to the Arnold Palmer Airport will provide consistent and reliable reduction in travel times for residents, goods and materials traveling through the corridor. Data shows that within a 1-mile radius of the projects, there were over 200 business employing over 846 people and \$51.8 million in sales. Expanding the radius to 3 miles shows 1,845 business with employment over 9,600 and over \$893 million in sales.

I certify that neither I nor my immediate family has any financial interest in this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John Joyce".

John Joyce, M.D.
Member of Congress