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

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The Honorable Tom Cole  
Chairman  
House Appropriations Committee  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Ranking Member  
House Appropriations Committee  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for the General Theological Seminary at Chelsea Square Accessibility & Pedestrian Flow Improvement 20th and 21st Street Project in fiscal year 2027. The entity to receive funding for this project is the New York City Department of Transportation located at 55 Water Street, New York, NY 10041. The proposed upgrades to the sidewalks along 20th and 21st Streets represent a comprehensive investment in safety, accessibility, and historic preservation at the Vanderbilt University–NYC campus, the home of the General Theological Seminary at historic Chelsea Square.

The scope includes restoring and preserving the existing bluestone sidewalks, installing new curbing, and reconfiguring tree pits to improve drainage, tree health, and pedestrian flow. At key campus entry points, new ADA-compliant curb cut-outs and an accessible entrance on 20th Street will ensure that all members of the community—students, faculty, neighbors, and visitors—can navigate the campus safely and with dignity. Beyond the campus boundaries, these improvements directly serve the broader Chelsea community by creating safer, more navigable, and more inviting public sidewalks for daily use—whether for families, older adults, individuals with disabilities, or the many pedestrians who traverse these blocks. The project also reinforces the historic character of Chelsea Square by thoughtfully preserving and resetting the original bluestone, maintaining the scale and rhythm of the streetscape, and aligning all upgrades with landmark district standards. In doing so, the work not only protects the architectural and cultural legacy of this historic enclave but also ensures it remains vibrant, accessible, and welcoming for generations to come.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because they deliver core city objectives—safer walking conditions, full ADA access, and long-lasting infrastructure—on public sidewalks that serve the entire Chelsea community. By restoring historic bluestone, improving drainage and tree health, and installing ADA-compliant curb ramps and an accessible campus entrance, the project makes these blocks more navigable for families, older adults, and New Yorkers with disabilities.

The project has a federal nexus because the funding provided is consistent with purposes authorized in 42 U.S.C. 5305(a)(5)

I certify that I have no financial interest in this project, nor does anyone in my immediate family.

Sincerely,

Jerrold Nadler  
Member of Congress