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Statement of Kate Slevin, Executive Director of Tri-State Transportation Campaign, in response to New York State's unsuccessful bid for a TIFIA loan for the Tappan Zee Bridge project:

New York State was not selected for a federal loan for the Tappan Zee Bridge, according to the USDOT. Yesterday, five other projects were invited to advance to the next stage of the TIFIA program and the Tappan Zee was not one of them. The state had applied for a \$2 billion TIFIA loan to help finance the new bridge.

USDOT uses a range of criteria to evaluate applications for this program, including environmental impacts and sustainability. Projects that reduce greenhouse gas emissions, encourage the use of alternative transportation, reduce reliance on foreign oil, and promote livability are more likely to receive federal loans. Tri-State Transportation Campaign and others have argued that New York's application would have been a competitive one if it had included a public transportation component. One of the short listed projects—the US 36 project in Colorado—includes bus rapid transit.

The news means that the financing for the Tappan Zee Bridge is even murkier than before. It also provides a great opportunity for the state to improve the project by including bus rapid transit. With bus rapid transit, the Tappan Zee Bridge project will be better for the environment, create more jobs, and be better positioned for future federal loans.

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Tri-State Transportation Campaign is a non-profit organization working toward a more balanced, transit-friendly, and equitable transportation system in New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut.