



The Board of Chosen Freeholders

County of Passaic

Theodore O. Best, Jr.
FREEHOLDER DIRECTOR

TEL: (973) 225-5427
FAX: (973) 742-3746

May 5, 2016

RE: May 19, 2016 Public Hearing on the Gateway Tunnel Project

Dear Administrator Feinberg,

I write today on behalf of the Passaic County Board of Chosen Freeholders with respect to the Gateway Tunnel Project. Please submit this correspondence as part of the official public comment received. The Gateway Tunnel Project is of vital importance to not only Passaic County, but all of North Jersey. Specifically, the inclusion of the "Bergen Loop" is crucial to providing a convenient link to New Jersey commuters into New York City that will raise property values, create jobs, and drive our local economies. As I am sure you are aware, the Bergen Loop was a component of the previously cancelled Access to the Region's Core ("ARC") Project that would create one-seat train service from New Jersey Transit's Pascack Valley, Main, and Bergen Lines into New York Penn Station. The economic impact of creating one-seat service to Penn Station is heavily documented. A March 2012 report from the United States Government Accountability Office forecasted an increase in home values of \$19,000 for communities served by the ARC Project, a 4.2% increase, a direct result of more efficient local travel and improved access to high paying jobs in New York City.

In no uncertain terms the inclusion of the Bergen Loop and creation of one-seat service for our constituents into New York Penn Station is paramount. To that point, the Board was encouraged to read reports that preliminary designs for the Gateway Tunnel Project included the Bergen Loop. However, there are still open questions regarding funding and construction of the Bergen Loop portion of the Project. I hope the United States Department of Transportation, Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, New Jersey Transit, and the Gateway Development Corporation understand how important the Bergen Loop is to the long-term economic viability of Passaic County and North Jersey. To not include this important component in the final Project design would be a lost opportunity that would take generations to get back. For your ease of reference, I am also enclosing Resolution R-2016-203 passed unanimously by the Passaic County Board of Chosen Freeholders in support of the Bergen Loop's inclusion in the Gateway Tunnel Project.

Please contact my office directly with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,



Theodore "TJ" Best, Jr.
Freeholder Director

Enclosure

cc: United States Senator Robert Menendez
United States Senator Cory Booker
Governor Chris Christie
Congressman Bill Pascrell
Congressman Scott Garrett
Congressman Rodney Frelinghuysen
Passaic County Board of Chosen Freeholders
Bergen County Executive James Tedesco
Bergen County Board of Chosen Freeholders
New Jersey Transit
Port Authority of New York and New Jersey

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Passaic County Board of Chosen Freeholders

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William J. Pascrell, III, Esq.
County Counsel
Louis E. Imhof, III, RMC
Clerk Of The Board



Public Meeting (Board Meeting)

Date: Mar 22, 2016 - 5:30 PM

Location: County Administration Building
220
401 Grand Street
Paterson, NJ 07505

Agenda: RESOLUTION URGING THE GATEWAY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION AND STATE AND FEDERAL OFFICIALS TO INCLUDE THE "BERGEN LOOP" IN THE GATEWAY TUNNEL PROJECT TO ENSURE ONE-SEAT SERVICE FOR PASSAIC COUNTY RESIDENTS INTO NEW YORK CITY, ALL AS NOTED IN THE RESOLUTION

THIS RESOLUTION WAS REQUESTED BY:

REVIEWED BY:

Anthony J. De Nova III
COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY:

William J. Pascrell, III, Esq.
COUNTY COUNSEL

Administration and Finance

COMMITTEE NAME

Official Resolution#	R20160203						
Meeting Date	03/22/2016						
Introduced Date	03/22/2016						
Adopted Date	03/22/2016						
Agenda Item	I-5						
CAF #							
Purchase Req. #							
Result	Adopted						
FREEHOLDER	PRES.	ABS.	MOVE	SEC	AYE	NAY	ABST.
Best Jr	✓				✓		
Bartlett	✓		✓		✓		
Duffy	✓				✓		
James	✓			✓	✓		
Lazzara	✓				✓		
Lepore	✓				✓		
Lora	✓				✓		

PRES.= present ABS.= absent
MOVE= moved SEC= seconded
AYE= yes NAY= no ABST.= abstain

Dated: March 23, 2016

RESOLUTION URGING THE GATEWAY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION AND STATE AND FEDERAL OFFICIALS TO INCLUDE THE "BERGEN LOOP" IN THE GATEWAY TUNNEL PROJECT TO ENSURE ONE-SEAT SERVICE FOR PASSAIC COUNTY RESIDENTS INTO NEW YORK CITY

WHEREAS the Gateway Development Corporation was created to administer the Gateway Tunnel Project, a major infrastructure undertaking that will create a new tunnel link between New York and New Jersey, and expand passenger rail service; and

WHEREAS to date, the Gateway Tunnel Project does not include the "Bergen Loop", a vital component of the Access to the Region's Core ("ARC") Project that was cancelled by, that created one-seat train service from the Pascack Valley, Main, and Bergen Lines into New York Penn Station; and

WHEREAS the economic impact of creating one-seat service to Penn Station is heavily documented, including the potential to increase property values by 4.2% in Passaic County, a direct result of more efficient local travel and improved access to high paying jobs in New York City; and

WHEREAS through the North Jersey Rail Coalition, the Passaic County Board of Chosen Freeholders are joining with elected officials at every level of government to lobby the Gateway Development Corporation to include the Bergen Loop in the Gateway Tunnel Project; and

WHEREAS as the Gateway Tunnel Project is a once in a lifetime undertaking, to move forward without the inclusion of the

Bergen Loop would be devastating to the long-term economic vitality of North Jersey; and

WHEREAS this Resolution was discussed and approved at the March 9, 2016 meeting of the Finance and Administration Committee; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Passaic County Board of Chosen Freeholders strongly urge the Gateway Development Corporation to include the Bergen Loop in the Gateway Tunnel Project, and urge the representatives in the New Jersey General Assembly, New Jersey State Senate, United States House of Representatives, and United States Senate, to do the same.

March 22, 2016