

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

January 28, 2019

The Honorable Elaine Chao, Secretary
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

We write in support of the Gateway Program Development Corporation (GPDC) Chairman Jerry Zaro's proposal that the Trump Administration's One Federal Decision (OFD) policy be used to complete and publish the Hudson Tunnel Project's final environmental review. Long delays and government shutdowns do not need to hinder work on the Hudson Tunnel Project's Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and a positive Record of Decision can be issued in accordance with Executive Order 13807.

The Hudson Tunnel Project, which aims to replace a century-old tunnel system that serves 200,000 daily passengers, is the most urgent transportation infrastructure project in the country. These two tunnels, which have been worn down by decades of daily service and major storms, are critical to the regional and national economy. That is why we, along with the GPDC and various state and local partners, have strongly advocated for a thorough and timely review of proposals that are necessary to get the project underway.


It has been nearly a year since NJ TRANSIT submitted an Administrative Draft of the final EIS to the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) for the Hudson Tunnel Project, and three months since FRA worked with project partners to update the EIS. Unfortunately, the FRA forwarded its completed document to the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) on December 10, 2018, 12 days before the most recent government shutdown. Due to this and the shutdown, which shuttered the agencies that oversee environmental reviews, the FTA's final EIS has not been completed.

In April 2018, the United States Department of Transportation (U.S. DOT) was one of several federal agencies to enter a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to establish timely processing of environmental reviews and authorization decisions for major infrastructure projects under the OFD policy. One of the MOU's specific goals is to "eliminate duplication of effort among agencies [and] improve the efficiency of project delivery..." We agree with Chairman Zaro that FRA can and should publish the final EIS and issue a positive Record of Decision on the Hudson Tunnel Project that can also serve as final EIS and Record of Decision for the FTA.

A Record of Decision is currently required from the FRA and FTA before the project can meet federal funding requirements of each model agency. We respectfully urge you to consider

Chairman Zaro's proposal and allow the FRA's review of the Hudson Tunnel Project EIS to inform an approved final EIS and Record of Decision that serves as DOT's OFD.

Sincerely,



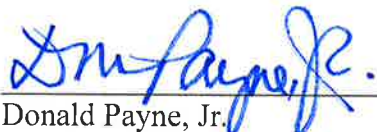
Albio Sires
Member of Congress



Bill Pascrell, Jr.
Member of Congress




Robert Menendez
United States Senator




Donald Payne, Jr.
Member of Congress



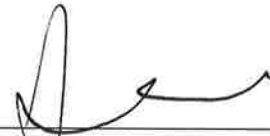
Mikie Sherrill
Member of Congress



Bonnie Watson Coleman
Member of Congress



Donald Norcross
Member of Congress



Josh Gottheimer
Member of Congress



Andy Kim
Member of Congress

cc. Jerry Zaro, Chairman, Gateway Program Development Corporation