

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

June 23, 2015

The Honorable Anthony Foxx
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Foxx:

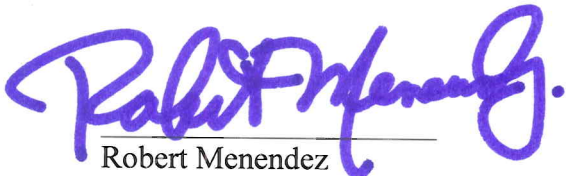
We are writing to express our support for New Jersey Transit's application for a Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) grant for early action construction on the Northeast Corridor Portal Bridge Replacement Project. We hope you will give full and fair consideration to this proposal.

The replacement of the Portal Bridge, which spans the Hackensack River in Kearny, New Jersey, is critical to the economic competitiveness of our region and our nation. The century-old bridge is a linchpin of the Northeast Corridor (NEC), carrying nearly 500 trains every day. However, due to limited clearance over the navigable channel below that requires multiple openings of the bridge every week, coupled with frequent technical difficulties with the bridge's swing span, Portal Bridge is a chokepoint of the NEC, inhibiting efficiency on our nation's busiest rail corridor.

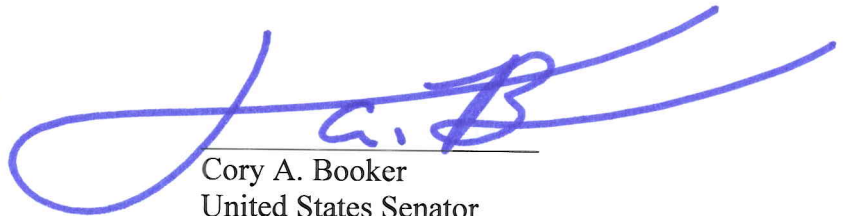
This preliminary construction project will progress and accelerate the vital process of replacing the Portal Bridge by relocating transmission lines and fiber optic cables, erecting structures and access roads for the larger bridge replacement project, and constructing a necessary retaining wall to support the new NEC track alignment. It would result in 546 job-years and pave the way for a safer, more reliable NEC.

We ask that you give all due consideration to the meritorious grant proposal, and thank you in advance for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Robert Menendez
United States Senator



Cory A. Booker
United States Senator