

BOROUGH OF HILLSDALE
RESOLUTION 19080

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE GATEWAY TUNNEL PROJECT
PROPOSED BY AMTRAK

WHEREAS, the Northeast Corridor is the busiest rail line in the Western Hemisphere, playing an essential role in the regional economy as a vital link for millions of residents, workers and visitors; and

WHEREAS, the Northeast Corridor is crucial to transporting New Jersey residents, business people and tourists between Washington D.C., and Boston via key regional stations at Philadelphia 30th Street Station, Trenton Transit Center, Newark Airport, Newark Penn Station and New York Penn Station; and

WHEREAS, the Hudson River rail tunnels carry 200,000 Amtrak and NJ Transit rail passengers in and out of New York City each weekday, representing a tripling ridership since 1990;

WHEREAS, many hundreds of residents of Hillsdale and nearby towns use NJ Transit, specifically the Pascack Valley Line, every day to get to work in New York, and

WHEREAS, the accessibility of rail access to New York provided by NJ Transit is a key determinant to maintaining the value of properties in Hillsdale, and

WHEREAS, current and projected demand for both Amtrak and NJ Transit exceed the capacity of the existing infrastructure between Newark and New York City; and

WHEREAS, the Northeast Corridor requires significant repairs and upgrades along the two-track stretch between Newark and New York City, including aging bridges and 100-year old tunnels under the Hudson River; and

WHEREAS, outmoded and deteriorating infrastructure, particularly the Hudson River tunnels and the Portal Bridge over the Hackensack River, causes frequent and extensive delays along the Northeast Corridor; and

WHEREAS, the Hudson River rail tunnels flooded for the first time in their 100-year history during Superstorm Sandy, leaving behind salt that is eating away at the reinforcing steel and concrete along with the electrical and signal systems, leading Amtrak to announce that each of the Hudson River tunnel tubes will need to be closed for a year or more within the next 15 to 20 years to conduct extensive repairs; and

WHEREAS, if new tunnels are not yet in place, the closures of the existing tunnels will reduce train traffic by an estimated 75% at peak times, forcing tens of thousands of riders to find alternative means of travel in and out of Manhattan, and causing huge disruptions for all who cross the Hudson, whether by train, bus, ferry or car; and

WHEREAS, preserving and expanding rail capacity is critical to giving the metropolitan region's trillion-dollar economy a chance to grow and to maintain its role as both a national and global financial and business center, and

WHEREAS, the Gateway program proposed by Amtrak, estimated to cost \$20 billion, would build two new Hudson River tunnel tubes and several bridges, expand NY Penn Station, and add two new tracks between Newark and New York, thus doubling trans-Hudson rail capacity.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Hillsdale Mayor and Council that the governments of the states of New Jersey and New York must work together with the Federal government to shepherd the Gateway Trans-Hudson Tunnel project, and must determine the funding strategy to design and build the project with haste and expediency; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Hillsdale Mayor and Council calls on the support of President Donald Trump and Congress for this vital investment in the busiest transportation corridor in the nation, with all the positive benefits that would accrue to the residents of Hillsdale who commute to New York daily or who otherwise own property in Hillsdale, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Hillsdale Mayor and Council urges thoughtful and careful consideration of the impacts that the development, planning and construction of the Gateway Tunnel Project will have on those municipalities where construction will occur; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be forwarded to President Trump, U.S. Senators Menendez and Booker, NJ Congressman Gottheimer, Governors Murphy (NJ) and Cuomo (NY), NJ State Senator Cardinal, and NJ State Assembly Representatives Auth and Schepisi.

Council member	Motion	Second	Yes	No	Absent	Abstain	Recuse
DeRosa, Anthony	X		X				
Escobar, John			X				
Horvath, Zoltan			X				
Lundy, Abby		X	X				
Pizzella, Frank					X		
Segalas, Steven					X		
Ruocco, John							

Adopted: April 2, 2019

Attest:


 Denise Kohan
 Municipal Clerk


 John Ruocco
 Mayor