



Sent via Electronic Mail

September 30, 2020

Kevin S. Corbett
Executive Director
New Jersey Transit
One Penn Plaza East
Newark, NJ 07105-2246

Dear Executive Director Corbett

Once the Pandemic threat is reduced and New Jersey returns to “new normal operations,” we anticipate NJ Transit train ridership will be significantly altered due to stay-at-home working policies in New York City. Based on this, the RVL Mayors Alliance believes this is an opportune time to increase one-seat ride service on the Raritan Valley Line (RVL). We also believe the recently issued (July 2020) “RVL One-Seat Ride Service to Manhattan” Study Report requires further collaborative discussions among NJ Transit, RVL Mayors Alliance, Raritan Valley Rail Coalition, and other stakeholders, and we look forward to facilitating those discussions in the near future.

The RVL Mayors urge you to immediately institute “shoulder peak period trains” to the RVL schedule as stated in the July 2020 “Dewberry” Study Report:

Two existing RVL trains originating at Raritan would be extended to PSNY, Train No. 5404 and Train No. 2406. They would stop at all stations, and each would arrive at PSNY before 7:00 am. In addition, one existing train originating at Raritan, Train No. 5902, would be extended to PSNY, stopping at all stations, and arriving at PSNY after 9:20 am and before the end of the morning peak period at 10:00 am. The three extended RVL trains would perform cross over moves at Hunter Interlocking to correctly position for continued operation to PSNY.

We would ask that you advise of your next proposed steps to put this additional service into place.

Second, the “new normal” ridership levels are likely to be significantly lower than those that the “Dewberry” study assumed; thus, the study’s assumptions about the imminence of capacity constraints and over-crowding that would occur as a result of adding Raritan Valley one-seat ride peak-period trains must be re-examined.

We encourage NJ Transit to continue monitoring the ridership in the “new normal” and increase RVL one-seat ride service to PSNY if ridership numbers show it is appropriate.

We believe the requested schedule modifications will enhance the environment (by reducing the vehicle travel distance to train stations) and produce fairness in commuter travel for the state of New Jersey.

New Jersey “Transit Villages” and “Opportunity Zones” will be supported and enhanced with an expanded one-seat ride allocation on the RVL. It will improve New Jersey’s competitiveness and business climate along the RVL and will encourage thriving and inclusive urban centers and downtowns, with a focus on reducing poverty.

We look forward to continued study and conversations about improving rail service on the RVL.

All the Best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert P. Fazen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping tail that extends to the right.

Robert P. Fazen
Co-Chair, RVL Mayors Alliance

Cc: Governor Phil Murphy
RVL Legislators
RVL Mayors