

Raritan Valley Line Mayors Alliance Representing residents from 28 Towns using the RVL

November 12, 2018

Honorable Governor Phil Murphy
U.S. Senator Cory Booker
U.S. Senator Robert Menendez

Dear Sirs,

The Raritan Valley Line (RVL) Mayors Alliance supports your proposal that the U.S. Coast Guard discontinue opening the Portal Bridge during peak commuting hours. We urge you to continue working on this proposal that will provide temporary relief to New Jersey commuters.

The RVL Mayors Alliance is a bipartisan group of elected officials representing residents of 28 towns using the RVL and nearly 300,000 NJ residents. Our primary goal is getting peak service one-seat ride into NY Penn Station for our residents. We are committed to achieving equity for the 23,000 people who commute daily on the RVL. The peak service commute on RVL requires the detraining at Newark to wait for and board a different train on a different platform. Our commute often adds an additional 35-minutes to the commute.

Delays and cancellations caused by malfunctions of the Portal Bridge have added even more time to our commute. The RVL Mayors Alliance has been outspoken in its support for the Gateway Project and replacement of the antiquated Portal Bridge. These projects are critical to the wellbeing and safety of our residents, the economy of New Jersey and each of our towns. But commuters cannot wait decades for completion of these projects.

That is why we support your U.S. Coast Guard proposal and strongly urge you to continue efforts to implement this temporary solution. Each of us hears from constituents whose quality of life is diminished, business owners unable to attract or keep employees and potential homeowners not sure if they want to take a chance on our communities or the State. The trickledown effect from an inadequate transportation system is a serious matter.

Thank you for seeking a solution. The RVL Mayor Alliance supports and appreciates the effort.

Respectfully,

Raritan Valley Line Mayors Alliance Co-Chairs

Mayor Robert Fazen
Bound Brook

Mayor Colleen Mahr
Fanwood

Mayor Shelley Brindle
Westfield