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Gateway Development Corporation Names Interim Executive Director, Chief Administrative Officer

Join General Counsel & Chief of Public Outreach in Strengthening GDC Leadership Team

NEWARK – Trustees of the Gateway Program Development Corporation (GDC) named Frank Sacr Interim Executive Director and hired Suma Mandel as Chief Administrative Officer. The appointments have the support of all partners and will further bolster the organization as it ramps up for the start of major construction on the Hudson Tunnel and Portal North Bridge Projects.

Mr. Sacr and Ms. Mandel are part of a leadership team that has grown and been strengthened in recent months and includes Stephen Sigmund, Chief of Public Outreach, who joined GDC in May, and Diana Lopez, General Counsel & Secretary. Staff from partner organizations Amtrak, New Jersey Transit and the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey also play important roles in the operations and activities of GDC. The Trustees plan to continue building the structure, resources and capabilities of the organization, particularly as bi-state legislation to make GDC grant eligible moves through the New Jersey and New York legislatures.

Mr. Sacr succeeds John D. Porcari, who has served as Interim Executive Director since July 2016.

“2019 is a pivotal year for the Gateway Program and we are grateful that Frank has accepted this challenge,” said **GDC Chairman Jerry Zaro**. “Frank has already been integral in developing smart and innovative financial plans for Gateway and in bringing the industry on board as partners as we develop and design our projects. His experiences working in investment banking, including work on the P3 structure for LaGuardia Airport Terminal B, are directly applicable to our project and we look forward to deploying his talents.”

Mr. Sacr currently serves as Interim Chief Finance Officer for GDC, responsible for all funding and financing aspects of the Gateway projects including advancing the procurement of the Hudson Tunnel Project to deliver it for the best value for money, including the combination of lowest cost and fastest schedule. Prior, he was with Societe Generale for 23 years, the last several of which he headed the bank’s infrastructure financing team for the Americas. In that role, Mr. Sacr was at the forefront of the development of the P3 market in North America.

Among other accomplishments, Mr. Porcari was instrumental in developing and executing the accelerated environmental review of the Hudson Tunnel Project – work that was completed in 22 months or half the time typical for a project of such magnitude. Porcari will continue in his full-time role as President, WSP Advisory Services and will remain as an advisor to GDC.

The three members of the GDC Board of Trustees, **Chairman Zaro, Vice Chairman Tony Coscia and New York Trustee Steven M. Cohen, jointly praised Mr. Porcari’s tenure**. “John has taken GDC and the Gateway Program from idea to reality. From the time he agreed to serve as Interim Executive Director almost 3 years ago, he has led us in getting the organization off the ground and making it

vital in moving the Gateway Program forward. He has been a steadfast and constant voice for the urgency of our projects and has worked with all of our partners, elected officials, and stakeholders to make sure we did everything we could, each day, to build Gateway. His day-to-day leadership will be missed, but we look forward to having him continue as a trusted advisor only a phone call away. We are enormously grateful to John for his service and professionalism.”

Ms. Mandel joins GDC from Brooklyn Bridge Park Corporation, where she served as General Counsel and Vice President of Strategic Partnerships. There, she worked closely with the President, Board, senior management, private partners and multiple City and State agencies throughout the transition from early stage project to a mature operating company managing a successful, financially self-sustaining public park. At GDC she is expected to oversee the organization’s internal structure and day-to-day administration, as well as coordinate with project partners to ensure consistency and stability.

In recent months, GDC has achieved significant on time and on budget milestones in the early construction work on the Portal North Bridge, which has had environmental approvals for two years, submitted an updated Hudson Tunnel Project EIS to the Federal Railroad Administration and an updated financial plan for the project to the FTA, advanced work with the private sector in developing procurement strategies for the Hudson Tunnel Project, seen bi-state legislation to strengthen GDC pass the New Jersey Senate and Assembly Transportation Committees, and helped bolster the Build Gateway Now coalition of civic, business and transportation oriented organizations advocating for the Gateway Program.

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The Gateway Program is the most urgent infrastructure program in the country – a comprehensive rail investment program that will improve commuter and intercity services, add needed resiliency and create new capacity for the busiest section of the Northeast Corridor (NEC). The NEC is the most heavily used passenger rail line in the country hosting more than 2,200 train movements and 800,000 passenger trips daily. The Gateway Program Development Corporation (GDC) is a New Jersey not-for-profit entity with Board members representing Amtrak and the States of New York and New Jersey. It was incorporated in 2016 to oversee and effectuate the Gateway Program in coordination with federal and local partner agencies. Follow the GDC on Twitter [@GatewayProgNews](https://twitter.com/GatewayProgNews).