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Statement by Gateway Corporation Chairman Jerry Zaro on FTA Ratings of Portal North Bridge and Hudson Tunnel Projects

Jerry Zaro, Chairman of the Gateway Program Development Corporation, which oversees delivery of the Gateway Program, issued the following statement on the Medium-Low ratings issued today by the Federal Transit Administration of the Portal North Bridge and Hudson Tunnel Projects:

“We are extremely disappointed that the U.S. Department of Transportation continuously fails to recognize the urgency around the Portal North Bridge and Hudson Tunnel Projects, and the commitment and ongoing work by the local partners to get them done.

The financial applications that have been submitted were updated to specifically meet FTA’s critiques, including the commitment of \$600 million from the State of New Jersey for the Portal North Bridge, which exceeds the 30% local match threshold to advance to the engineering phase. The Hudson Tunnel Project rating ignores more than \$5.5 billion that has been committed by the States of New York and New Jersey, including \$2.7 billion in the Port Authority capital plan which alone exceeds the critical 30% local match threshold.

These are projects of national significance. The funding commitments and all the required work from local partners is there. There is bi-partisan support in Congress and more than \$1 billion in appropriated monies that can be used toward these projects. All that is missing is a Federal partner willing to work with us to rebuild a vital part of America's infrastructure.”

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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).