

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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STATEMENT BY GATEWAY CORPORATION CHAIRMAN JERRY ZARO ON STRENGTHENED CASE FOR PORTAL NORTH BRIDGE CONSTRUCTION IN UPDATED FINANCIAL PLAN

NEWARK, NJ – The following statement was issued today by Jerry Zaro, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Gateway Program Development Corporation.

“In 2019, the entire Northeast corridor simply shouldn’t be relying on a 108-year-old swing bridge that gets stuck and causes delays even when it’s working properly.

“The FTA needs to recognize everything that’s been done to strengthen this financial plan – including providing 100% of the local share of funding, increasing the amount of monies available to the project to cover contingencies, and completing early work on time and on budget – and move Portal North Bridge toward a full funding agreement so 200,000 daily passengers can finally stop worrying if a failing bridge is going to make them late to work or unable to get home for dinner.

Simply put, it’s time for 21st Century rail transportation into and out of New York that passengers, and our regional and national economy, can finally rely on.”

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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).