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## **STEVEN M. COHEN AND BALPREET GREWAL-VIRK SELECTED TO CO-CHAIR BI-STATE GATEWAY DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION**

### ***Seven-Member Panel Holds Initial Organizational Meeting***

Newark, NJ – The Gateway Development Commission – a trans-Hudson partnership among the State of New York, State of New Jersey and Amtrak – will be co-chaired by New York Commissioner Steven M. Cohen and New Jersey Commissioner Balpreet Grewal-Virk, following a vote at today's initial organizational meeting of the Commission.

In addition to selecting co-chairs, the seven Commissioners adopted bylaws to govern the organization's day to day activities and approved Open Meetings, Conflict of Interest and Code of Ethics policies. Commissioners also received an update on the Portal North Bridge and Hudson Tunnel projects, including efforts to partner with the U.S. Department of Transportation to finalize the Hudson Tunnel Project Environmental Impact Statement so early work can commence.

"The Gateway Development Commission is an important partnership that will help coordinate and speed delivery of the Hudson Tunnel Project, the most urgent infrastructure project in the country," said co-Chair and New York Commissioner Steven M. Cohen. "We thank Governor Cuomo, the State Assembly and State Senate for helping constitute this body that is ready to get to work."

"The Gateway Program is essential to preserving New Jersey's economic future," said co-Chair and New Jersey Commissioner Balpreet Grewal-Virk. "I am grateful for the support of Governor Murphy, the State Assembly and State Senate and look forward to delivering for the riders of NJ TRANSIT and the people of New Jersey."

"The Northeast Corridor is an artery of the U.S. transportation network that must be preserved, improved and expanded to maintain American competitiveness and reduce carbon emissions," said **Amtrak Commissioner Tony Coscia**. "With the support of President Biden, Senator Schumer and all of our stakeholders and champions, it's time to build the Hudson Tunnel Project and the Gateway Program, and this is an important step in that direction."

**New Jersey Commissioner Jerry Zaro**, who continues to serve as Chair of the Gateway Development Corporation non-profit but is not eligible to be NJ co-chair of the Commission due to a residency requirement, said, "Building on the partnership that has taken root over the past several years, I am confident we can deliver this critically important project for the people of New Jersey, New York and America. It's time to modernize our transportation network and finally build 21<sup>st</sup> century infrastructure to power our 21<sup>st</sup> century economy."

“As when we built the Governor Mario M. Cuomo bridge, I will work to ensure the Gateway Program incorporates innovation throughout all areas of project delivery, so we can deliver on the promise of 21<sup>st</sup> century transportation,” said **New York Commissioner Jamey Barbas**.

“The Gateway Program represents a comprehensive, thoughtful approach to a vexing regional problem that must be addressed through collaboration and cooperation,” said **New Jersey Commissioner Janine Bauer**. “In particular, I look forward to working with my colleagues on the Commission to deliver new and modernized tracks to go into, through, and out of New York to expand the capacity and reach of the network and improve the quality of the commute for thousands of riders every day.”

“Working together to deliver the most urgent infrastructure project in America presents an opportunity to reshape how megaprojects are delivered and even perceived in this country. I look forward to working to ensure the day comes when our new tunnel and rehabilitated existing tunnel deliver for the people of New York, the region and the nation.” said **New York Commissioner Marie Therese Dominguez**.

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*The Gateway Program is the most urgent infrastructure program in the country – a comprehensive set of rail investments 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.*