

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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GATEWAY DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION CONTINUES EARLY WORK ON HUDSON TUNNEL PROJECT

“Test Pits” Show Where North End of Manhattan Ventilation Shaft Can Reach to Not Disrupt Electricity Lines

Newark, NJ – The Gateway Development Commission today highlighted continued ongoing preparation work for the Hudson Tunnel Project – which will build a new two-track passenger rail tunnel connecting to Penn Station New York and fully rehabilitate the existing 110-year-old tunnel.

The preparation work involves digging “test pits” on 30th Street in Manhattan, just east of 12th Avenue. The site will be the northern boundary of a large ventilation shaft for the new Hudson River Tunnel. The preparatory work confirms the location of Con Edison cables feeding electricity into Manhattan and will ensure future construction of the ventilation shaft does not cut, damage or otherwise disturb these cables.

Selected photos of the test pit work are available in the Photo Gallery of the Gateway Program website (<http://www.gatewayprogram.org/photo-gallery.html>).

The Board members of the Commission said, “Digging a new rail tunnel connecting New York and New Jersey for the first time in over 110 years is an incredibly complex undertaking. This one action shows just how complex. Even placing a portion of the 12th Avenue ventilation shaft requires knowing the whereabouts and relationships between interconnected infrastructure underground, and ensuring nothing we do disrupts major functions like electricity to thousands of people. We are committed to putting the utmost care into every single project element that constitutes the Hudson Tunnel, because it must benefit the residents of this region and this nation.”

Combined with the ongoing geotechnical borings and subsurface investigations to better understand the underground conditions along the new Hudson River Tunnel’s future path and the work to relocate utilities from the path of the third section of the Hudson Yards Concrete Casing, the Test Pits demonstrate that the Hudson Tunnel Project continues moving forward in doing all the work possible to prepare for a fully funded project.

Already, the early work on the Hudson Tunnel Project has resulted in, among other preparations, the full construction of the Hudson Yards Concrete Casing from 10th to 11th Avenues, a draft 30% design of the new Hudson River Tunnel, and over \$1.4 billion in estimated construction cost savings due to reductions in risk and contingencies.

Gateway Development Commissioners:

Steven M. Cohen, NY Commissioner & Co-Chair

Balpreet Grewal-Virk, NJ Commissioner & Co-Chair

Tony Coscia, Amtrak Commissioner & Vice-Chair
Jamey Barbes, NY Commissioner
Janine Bauer, NJ Commissioner
Marie Therese Dominguez, NY Commissioner
Jerry Zaro, NJ Commissioner

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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.