

**GATEWAY DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
BOARD MEETING
November 16, 2023**

Public Comments for November 16, 2023 Board Meeting
(Received as of November 15, 2023)

*The public was encouraged to submit public comments via the comment form on
www.GatewayProgram.org.*

Name	Michael Cappiello
Organization	Steel Service Center
Comment Topic	Requesting to be added to Steel &Steel Fabrication bid list
Eddie Kane Steel has long term contracts with utilities in the NY Metro area and a contact with the Gateway Program would result in a significant savings.	

Name	John Lane
Organization	Retired Hudson County Transportation Planner
Comment Topic	Palisade Tunnel Portal Issue
<p>Your website doesn't provide for any e-mail or phone contacts, but there is an issue I think you should be aware of that we were in the process of resolving prior to the cancellation of the ARC project... the retaining wall above the proposed portal is owned by Hudson County.</p> <p>At a meeting just before the start of the Tonnelle Avenue work, I asked at a meeting... do you ever want to see a Hudson County worker or contractor working there with a metal shovel when the catenary is energized. The reactions was, Oh shit NO!</p> <p>The Hudson County Board of Freeholders was going to vote on transferring the adjacent retaining wall to NJT the day that Governor Christie cancelled the project. Given how quickly everything collapsed after that, I doubt that the transfer ever was signed.</p>	

Name	Carlo Scissura
Organization	New York Building Congress
Comment Topic	Gateway Program Support
<p>To the Board of Commissioners,</p> <p>The Gateway Program is a major step forward toward repairing our region's strained rail infrastructure and better connecting our communities. The New York Building Congress has been a longtime proponent of Gateway, and we are excited and grateful to our partners in government that we finally reached the moment a few weeks ago -- after decades of planning, hard work, and collaboration -- where we got shovels in the ground on the West Side of Manhattan.</p> <p>And why is Gateway so important? The Hudson Tunnel and Portal North Bridge are both critical components of the infrastructure network necessary for a state-of-the-art mass transportation system for the Northeast Corridor (NEC), which contributes to 20 percent of our nation's GDP. The current Portal Bridge is over 100 years old and will be replaced by a modern, two-track bridge that will span 2.5 miles of the NEC. The Hudson Tunnel Project will include the construction of a new two-track rail tunnel on the NEC connecting New Jersey to Penn Station beneath the Hudson River. Both projects can create hundreds of good paying jobs for New Yorkers and our neighbors in New Jersey.</p> <p>Moving forward with both projects will improve connectivity for our region and reliability for the over 200,000 daily passengers that traveled this route prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. Both projects are important pieces in completing the broader Gateway Program that has the potential to double rail capacity between Newark and New York.</p> <p>In closing, Gateway will be the cornerstone of our investment in 21st Century infrastructure and will dictate the next century of our region.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Carlo A. Scissura, Esq. President & CEO, New York Building Congress</p>	

Name	Sophie Cappello
Organization	Regional Plan Association/Build Gateway Now Coalition
Comment Topic	Hudson Tunnel Project
<p>Thank you to the GDC for inviting public comment to be submitted ahead of the November 2023 Board Meeting. This testimony is on behalf of the Build Gateway Now Coalition.</p> <p>The past few weeks have brought incredibly exciting advancements for the Hudson Tunnel Project, which are the culmination of years of work. On November 3rd, construction officially began on the Manhattan side of the river at Hudson Yards Concrete Casing Section 3. Just earlier this year, the Biden administration awarded roughly \$300 million to this critical project that will preserve the right-of-way for the future tunnel. Less than a year later, shovels are in the ground – which speaks to the ongoing coordination and alignment of state and federal agencies with the project sponsor and other stakeholders.</p> <p>Simultaneously, the FRA awarded another \$3.8 billion to the Hudson Tunnel Project, bringing the total federal investment to over \$11 billion – its largest investment in mass transit, ever. This reflects the urgency of the project and lessens the burden on New York and New Jersey who will contribute a local share of the funding. The FRA also awarded hundreds of millions of dollars to Gateway Phase 2 projects, including Dock Bridge Rehabilitation and Sawtooth Bridges Replacement, a game-changing amount of money that will make New Jersey’s funding share more manageable. We need a fully-funded, complete Gateway Program and our coalition celebrates this achievement.</p> <p>We look forward to the upcoming advancements of the Hudson Tunnel Project, including construction starting on the New Jersey side at Tonnelle Avenue, which is imminent.</p> <p>As 2023 comes to an end, the Build Gateway Now coalition celebrates a year defined by huge milestones and incredible progress for the Hudson Tunnel Project. Between securing federal funding, beginning construction at Hudson Yards, efficiently coordinating between agencies and stakeholders, and growing ongoing public support of the project, we look forward to even more progress in 2024.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>	