

**GATEWAY DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION  
BOARD MEETING  
December 11, 2023**

**Public Comments for December 11, 2023 Board Meeting**  
*(Received as of December 10, 2023)*

*The public was encouraged to submit public comments via the comment form on  
[www.GatewayProgram.org](http://www.GatewayProgram.org).*

Name	Wanda Nazar
Organization	Expediting Support Services
Comment Topic	DBE Certified
DBE Certified	

Name	Samira Ayati
Organization	IVY ENGINEERING GROUP PLLC
Comment Topic	N/A
N/A	

Name	Chad Purkey
Organization	Association for a Better New York
Comment Topic	Hudson Tunnel Project Full Funding Grant Agreement

The Association for a Better New York (ABNY) commends the Gateway Development Commission on reaching several major milestones this past year, including fulfilling its obligation to begin construction in 2023 on both sides of the Hudson River. This continued adherence to the Commission’s intended timeline is critical to ensure the Gateway Program and its outsized benefits are realized.

As one of the most pressing infrastructure needs in the nation, the Gateway Program has the potential to catalyze commercial activity not only locally but also nationally, as the Northeast region of the United States is an economic engine for the entire country. Once this project comes to fruition, commuters, tourists, and visitors to New York City and larger region will have safe, reliable means of travel.

Though despite recent progress and accomplishments, more funding commitments and support from the Gateway Program’s government partners - including Federal and State – are needed in order to fully realize the Program’s projects and benefits. We join our colleagues in the Build Gateway Now Coalition in urging the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and government leaders to move quickly in securing the remaining funding commitments needed to bring the Hudson Tunnel Project to a Full Funding Grant Agreement in 2024. This agreement and remaining funding commitments will help ensure the Hudson Tunnel Project can reach a “point of no return” in the year ahead and commit it to finally being realized.

Thank you to the Commission for your continued efforts in moving the Gateway Program forward and we at ABNY, along with the Build Gateway Now Coalition, look forward to continue to support this urgently needed investment in our rail network.

Name	Sophie Cappello
Organization	Regional Plan Association/Build Gateway Now Coalition
Comment Topic	Hudson Tunnel Project

Thank you to the Gateway Development Commission for inviting public comment today. My name is Christina Kata and I am testifying on behalf of Regional Plan Association and the Build Gateway Now Coalition.

For many years, RPA and the Build Gateway Now coalition have prioritized how we can move the Gateway Program forward. We've led research projects and strategic communications efforts, and engaged the public, electeds, and other stakeholders to convey the importance of the Hudson Tunnel Project. This past year, especially the past six months, we have celebrated milestones for the Hudson Tunnel Project that represent the beginning of the culmination of this collective work; most notably, that construction has officially started on both sides of the river at Hudson Yards Concrete Casing and Tonnelle Avenue. Congratulations to the GDC and all project leaders on meeting this obligation, and keeping the project on schedule.

This year we have also celebrated a historic amount of federal funding for the Hudson Tunnel Project. Roughly \$11 billion federal dollars have been awarded by the US Department of Transportation, and that historic investment is a testament not only to the importance of the project but also to the responsibility that the GDC has demonstrated to move the project forward. We are especially proud that a rail project is finally being viewed as nearly as important as most interstate highway projects, which can usually count on 80 to 90 percent of the project costs being covered by the Federal Government. We hope our timely research on the importance of the Gateway Program to the regional and national economies contributed somewhat to finally getting a larger share of the funds from Washington.

As we look forward to more progress in the year ahead, we will continue to be fierce advocates of the Gateway Program. We will urge government officials to move quickly on the remaining funding commitments, and continue to advocate for Phase 2 projects of the Gateway Program – the completion of all 11 projects is what will truly modernize transportation in this critical section of the Northeast Corridor, creating a more sustainable future and bolstering our interconnected economies.

We look forward to reaching the point of no return for the Hudson Tunnel Project in 2024. Thank you.