



STATE OF NEW YORK
EXECUTIVE CHAMBER
ALBANY 12224

ANDREW M. CUOMO
GOVERNOR

August 7, 2015

Anthony Foxx, Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Foxx:

I would like to summarize the current situation concerning the feasibility of a new Hudson tunnel as referenced in your letter of July 27, 2015.

The State of New York and the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey agree that the need for Amtrak to construct a new rail tunnel under the Hudson River is real and urgent. It is my understanding that the State of New Jersey also believes in the need to construct a new tunnel. This is not new. However, the issue has always been the absence of financing. The estimated cost of this Amtrak project may be as much as \$14 billion. I welcomed your initiative when I read in your letter that you not only understood the need for the tunnel but were willing to participate in funding the project. Since these tunnels are Amtrak facilities, and since federal law and regulations require Amtrak to maintain its assets – including the Hudson River tunnels – in a state of good repair, substantial federal funding needs to be and should be available for this project.

After many discussions by all parties, it appears that, at the end of the day, your Department to date is only offering a loan to build the tunnel and the loan calls for debt service payments due in year six of an estimated twelve-year construction schedule with literally no grant or other direct funding support from Amtrak or the federal government. This is not viable. The Port and the States cannot shoulder this massive financial burden. It is simply not appropriate for Amtrak and the federal government to look to the States and to the Port Authority to bear the large financial burden of an Amtrak asset that has fallen into disrepair through lack of Amtrak investment over decades.

As your letter to me recognized, this tunnel is a vital rail link for the entire Northeast corridor. The federal interest and Amtrak's responsibility here dwarf the NY-NJ connection. I urge you to obtain actual funding from the administration or from Congress. The federal need is evidenced by your interest and involvement. But we need to know what federal resources are available to repair these vital Amtrak facilities.

WE WORK FOR THE PEOPLE
PERFORMANCE ★ INTEGRITY ★ PRIDE

I appreciate your efforts to convince your federal colleagues of the need to fund this essential link in our nation's transportation system. As we both realize, without this link, Amtrak becomes disabled in the Northeast region.

We stand ready to help if you develop a serious, feasible, and fair funding plan. Thank you.

Sincerely,



ANDREW M. CUOMO

cc: Port Authority of New York and New Jersey
Governor Chris Christie
Senator Charles Schumer
Senator Kirsten Gillibrand
Congresswoman Nita Lowey
Congressman Jerry Nadler
Congressman Richard Hanna
Congressman Sean Patrick Maloney
Congressman Lee Zeldin
Congressman John Katko
Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney
Congressman Jose Serrano
Congressman Steve Israel
Senator Robert Menendez
Senator Corey Booker