

Mass Transit Tunnel Ground Breaking – June 8, 2009

Quote Sheet

United States Congress

Congressman Albio Sires, District 13:

"The awarding of \$130 million in stimulus dollars highlights how important the ARC Mass Transit Tunnel project is not just to New Jersey, but to our nation's leaders in Washington. Construction of the project could not come at a better time; the project will put thousands of people back to work and will jump start the region's economy."

Congressman Bill Pascrell, District 8:

"One of my top priorities in Congress has been to ensure that New Jersey, the nation's most densely populated state, has an efficient public transportation system. Projects like the Mass Transit Tunnel (MTT) are critical to relieving traffic congestion on New Jersey's roads and providing access to the best jobs available. The MTT gives thousands more North Jersey residents access to Midtown Direct service."

Congressman Steve Rothman, District 9, Member of House Appropriations Committee:

"The Mass Transit Tunnel provides a needed capability to our aging and overburdened transportation infrastructure, creates jobs and improves the business and non-business quality of life for the people of our region."

Congressman Rodney Frelinghuysen, District 11:

"Construction of a new trans-Hudson tunnel is critical for New Jersey and the entire region. The new tunnel is a win-win for our state by creating jobs and assuring that more people can travel safely and quickly."

Congressman Rush Holt, District 12:

"This is exactly the kind of investment we should be making: one that creates 6,000 jobs each year and rebuilds our declining infrastructure."

Congressman Frank Pallone Jr., District 6:

"The tunnel project will produce some of the most important improvements to the regional infrastructure in a generation because of the jobs it creates and the gridlock it breaks. It will put people to work, it will greatly improve transportation in the tri-state area and it will reduce air pollution through reduced emissions. People have talked about this for many years but we are actually getting it done."

Congressman Frank LoBiondo, District 2:

"The Mass Transit Tunnel project is not only a critical infrastructure project for residents and visitors of the New Jersey-New York region, but vital to the long-term economic prosperity of the region. This is exactly the kind of project that can put people to work immediately and have a sustained, positive economic impact for the surrounding businesses and communities."

New Jersey Legislature

Senator Richard Codey, District 27, Senate President:

"The Mass Transit Tunnel (MTT) is a win-win for everyone. Building a new trans-Hudson tunnel means doubling rail capacity, creating 44,000 permanent jobs and pumping \$45 billion into new economic activity. Without it, we risk a future marred by a regional economy as jammed up as our highways."

Senator Tom Kean, District 21, Senate Republican Leader:

"The Mass Transit Tunnel means there's finally 'light at the end of the tunnel' for riders waiting for a one-seat ride into Manhattan. The project creates the infrastructure necessary to meet the transportation needs of the state's booming population, and job opportunities for now and future generations."

Assemblyman Alex DeCroce, District 26, Assembly Republican Leader:

"A new trans-Hudson tunnel has been discussed for more than 50 years. So, for residents of Morris County, the MTT means we are finally going to get the additional express trains and more frequent service into New York that we need."

Senator Nicholas Sacco, District 32, Chairman of Senate Transportation Committee:
"With the very first shovel in the ground, we open the door to 6,000 annual new jobs for today, and access to millions of jobs for future generations. Motorists benefit because the new tunnel will eliminate 22,000 cars a day from our congested roadways and reduce greenhouse gases by 66,000 tons a year."

Assemblyman John Wisniewski, District 19, Chairman of Assembly Transportation Committee:

"This is by far the most important transit project to move forward since the last tunnels were built 100 years ago," said Assemblyman John Wisniewski. "NJ TRANSIT's ridership under the Hudson has quadrupled since the mid-80s, creating gridlock on the tracks. Today, we begin breaking up the bottleneck."

Other Officials

Susan Bass Levin, First Deputy Executive Director of the Port Authority of New York & New Jersey:

"This groundbreaking marks our commitment to mass transit as a tool to unite communities, spur economic development, and create opportunity. ARC will transform the way people move in, out, and through the region for generations to come."

Diane Gutierrez-Scaccetti, Executive Director of the New Jersey Turnpike Authority:
"Every transportation agency in this region owes it to those who utilize their respective facilities to look to the future to ensure high levels of service. The Authority's participation in the ARC project accomplishes that by providing real transportation alternatives to the travelling public and addressing environmental concerns resulting from congestion in this heavily travelled region of our State."

Philip K. Beachem, President of New Jersey Alliance for Action:

"The Alliance for Action has long worked to bring business and labor groups, environmentalists and transit advocates together to support this project and its job-generating capacity. The increased rail capacity from the new Mass Transit Tunnel will ensure that New Jersey commuters have better and increased access to New York City."

Kate Slevin, Executive Director of the Tri-State Transportation Campaign:

“For commuters crowded on the Hudson River crossings, ARC cannot be built soon enough. ARC will double transit capacity between New Jersey and Manhattan and offer New Jersey residents greater transportation choices. It will also help our environment by removing 22,000 cars a day from our roads and 67,000 tons of greenhouse gases from our air. Congratulations to Governor Corzine and our New Jersey Congressional delegation for their leadership on this project.”