

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

March 20, 2025

The Honorable Anthony Coscia
Chairman
Amtrak Headquarters
1 Massachusetts Ave, NW
Washington, DC 20001

We are asking for an update regarding the repair and replacement work Amtrak and New Jersey TRANSIT (NJT) have done to alleviate the significant delays that commuters in our state suffered through last year. This should also include an update on the \$112 million federal grant that was awarded for repair work on sections of the Northeast Corridor (NEC) specifically in New Jersey. While we are relieved that the occurrence and length of delays have decreased since the ‘summer of hell’ last year, our constituents still experience persistent delays in the system. New Jersey families need assurances that a clear plan of action is in place ahead of what is bound to be another busy spring and summer in the Garden State.

Last year, many of us toured Amtrak and NJT facilities and infrastructure to assess the need for repairs and determine the status of long-overdue infrastructure improvements, many of them funded through the historic Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. We also discussed what is needed to directly address the significant disruptions and delays that have long plagued New Jersey commuters. Namely, there is an overwhelming need for a long-term state-of-good-repair work schedule that will finally address the consistent failures of ancient catenary wires, signal equipment, and substations.

We also worked closely with you and NJT to successfully apply for the two \$112 million RAISE Grants that were awarded in November 2024. Once obligated, this funding will help overhaul key Amtrak and NJ Transit infrastructure along the NEC in New Jersey. The funding includes \$18.6 million to upgrade the signal system between New Brunswick and Elizabeth, \$13.4 million for catenary modernization across a 23-mile stretch in northern New Jersey, and \$80 million for upgrades at the Kearny Substation.

We would like a status update on where the RAISE grants are in the approval process, a specific outline of the state-of-good-repair work you have completed using annually appropriated funding, and a forward-looking report on your upcoming NEC work schedule in New Jersey. Additionally, our understanding is that you need to agree to and implement a work outage schedule with NJT, which will reduce service in certain areas of the NEC as repairs are taking place. We urge you to finalize this plan immediately to give our constituents ample warning of planned outages and ensure the most pressing repairs to catenary and signals are done ahead of the expected summer heat that caused many of the major delays last year.

The problems ailing New Jersey's commuter rail system and their solutions are both clear. Now is the time to act on this information, commit to a strong plan of action, and execute these badly needed repairs. Doing so will greatly decrease service disruptions, improve train speeds, and enhance reliability for daily commuters.

Thank you for your continued attention to this urgent matter. The quality of life of tens of thousands of New Jerseyans depends on your success, and we look forward to our continued partnership moving forward.

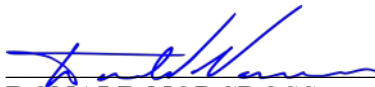
Sincerely,



FRANK PALLONE, JR.
Member of Congress



LAMONICA MCIVER
Member of Congress



DONALD NORCROSS
Member of Congress



MIKIE SHERRILL
Member of Congress



BONNIE WATSON COLEMAN
Member of Congress



JOSH GOTTHEIMER
Member of Congress



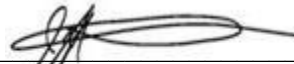
ROBERT J. MENENDEZ
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