



**Port Authority of NY & NJ  
Public Hearing on the Capital Plan  
February 7, 2017  
Jersey City, NJ  
Statement of Chip Hallock, President & CEO  
Newark Regional Business Partnership**

Thank you for the opportunity today to offer the views of the Newark Regional Business Partnership (NRBP), a broad-based membership organization founded in 1869 as the Newark Board of Trade, which now represents 435 businesses, organizations and institutions employing more than 140,000 people in New Jersey. We are committed to providing our members with the connections, information and advocacy they need to be successful while revitalizing the state's largest City and improving the economic competitiveness of the Newark region.

Last year, NRBP's Board of Directors approved a list of transportation initiatives for which we would advocate. The priorities were recommended by our Transportation Council and presented to the general membership for its ranking. Three projects contained in the Port Authority's capital plan were among those priorities including:

**1. PATH Extension to Rail Station at Newark Liberty International Airport (EWR) including a stop in Newark's South Ward**

EWR serves as an economic engine for the Newark region and an invaluable transportation asset for the entire metropolitan area. Approximately 20,000 people are employed at the airport which handles 40 million passengers a year. EWR supports a vibrant tourism industry in the New York metropolitan area and enables business travelers to travel the globe from Newark - a key element for business attraction. A direct connection for passengers will make EWR even more competitive as well as provide better commuter access for New Jerseyans to lower Manhattan.

NRBP stands with Newark Mayor Ras Baraka and Councilman John James - the PATH extension MUST include a station in Newark's South Ward as a key element of Newark's continued revitalization. The Greater Dayton Neighborhood is primed for transit-oriented development that will transform this area of the City with improved access to jobs, new housing and a better quality of life.

## **2. Newark Liberty International Airport Terminal A Redevelopment**

Despite the Port Authority and its partner airlines' best efforts, Terminal A is simply inadequate. In its present configuration, Terminal A cannot support modern airline operations nor accommodate the number of passengers it sees – it must be completely redeveloped. NRBP supports the capital plan which calls for a new terminal, redesigned airfield along with a new road system and additional parking.

## **3. Support of the Gateway Program**

We consider the Port Authority's support for the Gateway Program to be the most essential element of the capital plan. By providing \$2.7 billion to cover debt service, the Port Authority will help to fund New Jersey's and New York's commitments to ensure safe and reliable train service on the country's most heavily used passenger rail line, the Northeast Corridor (NEC).

The need to build two new tunnels under the Hudson River, rehabilitate the existing tunnels and replace the Portal Bridge has been well-documented. We must ensure that hundreds of thousands of people can get to work each day via safe, reliable and environmentally-friendly rail. Not only does the economic vitality of each state depend upon this project but the Federal Railroad Administration has stated that a just one day loss of service on the NEC could cost the Nation nearly \$100 million in transportation-related impacts and productivity losses. We cannot afford any further delay of the Gateway Program.