



New Jersey Turnpike Authority

MEMORANDUM

February 25, 2020

TO: Diane Gutierrez-Scaccetti, Chair
Ulises E. Diaz, Vice Chair
Michael R. DuPont, Treasurer
Raymond M. Pocino, Commissioner
Ronald Gravino, Commissioner
John D. Minella, Commissioner
Raphael Salermo, Commissioner

FROM: John M. Keller, P.E., Executive Director

RE: Request for Authorization to Conduct Public Hearings in Connection with a Proposed Capital Program and Supporting Revenue Enhancement on the New Jersey Turnpike and Garden State Parkway

As you know, the New Jersey Turnpike Authority has provided the highest quality transportation services to its patrons for nearly 70 years. The Turnpike is a critical link in the State of New Jersey's integrated transportation network. As you also know, the Authority has completed a \$7 Billion dollars capital program to ensure that Authority roadways remain a safe and reliable component of the State transportation system.

Nevertheless, more work remains to be done in order to continue to provide the motoring public with the highest level of service. At present, just \$400 million dollars are currently available over the next five years to tackle important capital projects that enhance roadway safety, relieve roadway congestion and improve access onto and off the Turnpike and Parkway.

Accordingly, authorization is requested to permit staff to hold public hearings in accordance with N.J.S.A. 27:23-5.10 and 5.11, determine an appropriate capital plan, and explore funding to support those capital projects deemed necessary and important to the continued safety and reliability of Authority roadways and the critical part they play in the State's integrated transportation system.

Therefore, a resolution authorizing a total of three (3) hearings with one each to be held in Northern, Central and Southern New Jersey over the course of March 18 and March 19, 2020, is on the agenda for your consideration and approval to allow staff to begin the public hearing process.

Respectfully submitted,

John M. Keller, P.E.,
Executive Director

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PUBLIC HEARINGS PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 27:23-5.10 AND 5.11 IN CONNECTION WITH A PROPOSED CAPITAL PROGRAM AND SUPPORTING REVENUE ENHANCEMENT ON THE NEW JERSEY TURNPIKE AND GARDEN STATE PARKWAY

WHEREAS, the State of New Jersey (the “State”) is a regional transportation corridor connecting the Washington and Boston megalopolis; and

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Turnpike (“Turnpike”) and Garden State Parkway (“Parkway”), as well as State highways, local roadways and rail service, are all part of the State’s integrated transportation system (the “Transportation System”) that moves people and goods through the State; and

WHEREAS, each component of the Transportation System is interdependent because a failure in one component of the system has the potential to overburden another where, for example, the motoring public substitutes local roadways as a result of all-too predictable congestion along the Parkway, or because of unpredictable rail services; and

WHEREAS, investing in improvements to the Transportation System that relieve roadway congestion, reducing vehicle idling time, or that instill confidence in the reliability of mass transit, encouraging its use, advances the State’s environmental efforts to reduce greenhouse emissions; and

WHEREAS, improvements to the Turnpike, Parkway and other State roadways within the Transportation System will increasingly inure to the benefit of electric vehicles, whose use is expected to increase and become a viable alternative to traditionally-powered vehicles as a result of recent environmentally-friendly legislation that mandates electric vehicle charging stations along the Turnpike and Parkway, some of which are already in use, and other State roadways, and that provides incentives for the purchase or lease of electric vehicles; and

WHEREAS, capital projects that enhance roadway safety, relieve roadway congestion and improve access onto and off the Turnpike and Parkway through new or reconfigured interchanges connecting to other components of the Transportation System will contribute to the overall reliability and viability and of the System; and

WHEREAS, the Executive Director has advised of the Authority’s need to pursue certain of those capital projects; and

WHEREAS, the Authority must affirmatively certify that its projected revenues will meet the debt coverage ratios in its existing bond covenants; and

WHEREAS, the Executive Director proposes adjustments to the rate schedules for the Turnpike and Parkway to meet these needs; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 27:23-5.10, the Authority may adjust existing rates or establish any new rate for the use of any highway project (as defined in N.J.S.A. 27:23-4), upon the holding of a public hearing on such proposed rates at least 45 days prior to the date on which such rate is proposed to become effective; and

WHEREAS, the Authority desires to hold public hearings for the purpose of proposing a new rate schedule for the use of its highway projects, specifically, the New Jersey Turnpike and the Garden State Parkway,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS FOLLOWS:

1. Three separate public hearings on proposed rates for use of the Turnpike and Parkway are hereby authorized to be held in Northern, Central and Southern New Jersey, respectively, on March 18, 2020 and March 19, 2020, at locations and at times to be determined by an authorized officer of the Authority.
2. An authorized officer of the Authority is hereby directed to cause notice of such public hearings to be published at least 10 days prior to such hearings in at least 10 newspapers with a daily circulation in the State of New Jersey.
3. This resolution shall take effect in accordance with the provisions of Section 3(F) of Chapter 454 of the Laws of New Jersey of 1948, as amended (N.J.S.A. 27:23-1 et seq.).