



New Jersey Society for Environmental,
Economic Development

308 West State Street
Trenton, NJ 08618
609.394.7726
609.394.2795 Fax
info@njseed.org
www.njseed.org

TRANSPORTATION – TOP POLICY ISSUES

May 2017

The Trump Administrations Infrastructure Plan

The budget summary released by the White House on March 16, 2017, indicates that the Trump Administration plans to freeze new federal-grant agreements for infrastructure projects that are not fully funded. This will affect transportation projects in New Jersey such as Gateway. **NJ SEED encourages Congress to determine a dedicated and renewal revenue source to fund the restoration our nation’s transportation infrastructure, which was once the envy of the world in the name of transportation safety and economic development.**

Gateway Program: Increased Rail Capacity and a Solid Rail Infrastructure

The Gateway Program is a proposed set of strategic rail infrastructure improvements designed to improve current services and create new capacity that will allow the doubling of passenger trains running under the Hudson River. The program will increase track, tunnel, bridge, and station capacity, eventually creating four mainline tracks between Newark, NJ, and Penn Station, New York, including a new, two-track Hudson River tunnel.

The program also includes updates to, and modernization of, existing infrastructure, such as the electrical system that supplies power to the roughly 450 weekday trains using this segment of the Northeast Corridor, and rebuilding and replacing the damaged components of the existing, century-old Hudson River tunnel, which was inundated with sea water during Super Storm Sandy. By eliminating the bottleneck in New York and creating additional tunnel, track, and station capacity in the most congested segment of the NEC, the Gateway Program will provide greater levels of service, increased redundancy, added reliability for shared operations, and additional capacity for the future increases in commuter and intercity rail service.



The Gateway Program is considered the most important infrastructure project in the country because it effects 200,000 people that commute daily between New York and New Jersey. The entire East Coast economy is connected to the workforce that uses the rail line. The project is estimated to cost between \$20 billion and \$25 billion. With the Trump Administration’s freeze on new federal-grants for infrastructure projects it is unlikely that the rail line project will receive the adequate funding it needs and the states cannot fully fund the project on their own.

This and the surrounding rail and water way supporting infrastructure requires planning and development in order for NJ to remain a world class port and economic hub. NJ Transit, Amtrak and freight shipping ways all need consideration in this planning process as well.

2017 Premier Sponsors





New Jersey Society for Environmental,
Economic Development

308 West State Street
Trenton, NJ 08618
609.394.7726
609.394.2795 Fax
info@njseed.org
www.njseed.org

Congress Should Approve Transformational Air Traffic Control Reform in the 2017 FAA Reauthorization

The American Air Traffic Control System (ATC) needs a complete transformation to meet today's demands of the airlines industry. The problem is the ATC services provided by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has a safe yet outdated radar system. Advanced radar technology would be more effective at moving passengers and cargo in a timely manner. Today, flights are scheduled more than twice the actual flying time under the presumption that there will be ATC delays. Consequently, passengers experience delays, cancelations, and missed connections. Other countries have updated their ATC system reducing delays and improving passengers flying experience. **NJ SEED strongly supports transformational air traffic control reform to compete with foreign airlines, benefit passengers, increased efficiency, and boost safety. In 2017, Congress is going to debate the issues as part of the FAA Authorization Bill.**

NJ SEED Supports FAA Reauthorization That Meets the Needs of the NAS (National Airspace System) and Fosters its Growth and Modernization

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has been reauthorized through September 2017. Bipartisan majorities approved the legislation and President Obama signed it in mid-July. Unfortunately, this legislation does not provide the long-term funding certainty our NAS needs. It does, however, contain important provisions that would streamline the hiring process for controllers, an important step considering the current hiring crisis impacting the air traffic control workforce.

While NJSEED considers the extension a good start, that provides certainty through the end of the next fiscal year, our preference is for a full, long-term reauthorization with a stable, predictable funding stream that ends both sequestration and the stop-and-go funding that has harmed the NAS.

OTHER IMPORTANT ISSUES

- Separation of safety regulators and air traffic operations to enhance air traffic safety
- Unfair practices by gulf carriers threaten U.S. aviation jobs, the industry and our economy
- Newark Airport capacity controls

Distracted Driving

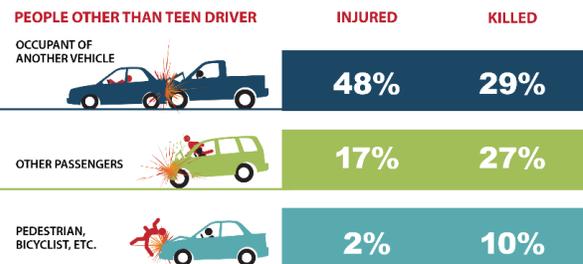
Research has shown that the combination of visual, cognitive and physical distractions caused by texting while driving are an inherently dangerous behavior and cause significant danger on our roadways each day. Texting while driving should be illegal on all roadways. Education on the inherent danger of these activities, as well as increase enforcement are necessary tools to combat this dangerous behavior.

Distracted driving is a dangerous epidemic on New Jersey's roadways. During daylight hours, it is estimated that 660,000 drivers are using an electronic device while driving. In 2015, distracted driving killed 3,477 people and injured 391,000.

NJ SEED is pleased that Congress and the Administration have come together to designate critical, lifesaving resources for state highway safety agencies in the FAST Act. This legislation will help states fortify the programs already in place to combat the dangerous driver behaviors that contribute to 94 percent of crashes.

EVERYONE'S AT RISK | NEARLY 2/3 OF PEOPLE INJURED OR KILLED

in a teen driver crash are people other than the driver.



For more information on how to keep teens safe, visit TeenDriving.AAA.com

2017 Premier Sponsors

