WEST WINDSOR TOWNSHIP

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Office of the Mayor

PRESS RELEASE

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WEST WINDSOR LEADERSHIP DEMANDS IMMEDIATE INTERVENTION AS CLARKSVILLE ROAD BRIDGE CLOSURE HITS FRUSTRATING ONE-YEAR MARK

West Windsor Township Mayor Marathe and the Township Council Urge Governor Sherrill and NJ Senators Booker and Kim to Break Interagency Gridlock with Amtrak as Public Safety and Local Economy Hang in the Balance

WEST WINDSOR, NJ — NOVEMBER 2, 2026 — West Windsor Township leadership is demanding immediate, direct intervention from Governor Mikie Sherrill, U.S. Senators Cory Booker and Andy Kim, and Congresswoman Bonnie Watson-Coleman to fully restore and open the Clarksville Road Bridge (CR 638). The call for action comes on the one-year anniversary of the closure of this vital regional artery.

While the New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT) commenced physical repairs on the bridge deck on October 20, 2026, the critical remediation of the dangerous underlying structure remains unscheduled. The bridge, which spans the Amtrak rail line, has become a focal point of intense local gridlock amidst bureaucratic coordination challenges between NJDOT and Amtrak.



The year-long closure forces more than 15,000 vehicles daily into lengthy detours, choking school transit routes for the West Windsor-Plainsboro Regional School District, creating regional public safety issues and inflicting severe economic strain on local business corridors that depend on this heavily trafficked regional thoroughfare.

"For 365 days, our community has felt the severe impact of this closure every single day," said **Mayor Hemant Marathe**. "While we are glad to see NJDOT beginning repairs on the deck, the reality is that the bridge is still not open. A one-year mark is a sad milestone. Instead of the joyous celebration of the bridge opening that we had initially expected by now, we continue to face economic hardship, disrupted lives for our residents, and increased response times for all emergency services."

The most critical threat is to regional public safety. Detours significantly increase response times for West Windsor's Fire, Police, and EMS squads, as well as the County Hazmat team — one of only two specialized hazardous materials units serving all of Mercer County. Local officials warned that the interagency delays could put thousands of lives at risk across the region.

"The Clarksville Road Bridge crisis has reached a critical, unsustainable breaking point," stated **Council President Sonia Gawas**. "We sounded the alarm back in February by passing Resolution 2026-R051 to plead for a Governor's State of Emergency, but our community has been met with absolute silence. We cannot wait any longer while public safety hangs in the balance. **We need our Governor, Senators, and Congresswoman to fight for us to get this bridge open as soon as possible.**"

Council Vice President Andrea Mandel notes that the "'Phillipsburg Bridge', which was also over a railroad track, was fully reopened after only six months. This shows what can happen when all levels of government work in tandem towards a critical objective. In contrast, the West Windsor project still lacks a definitive completion date or a timeline to open even a single lane."

In September, when it became apparent after a presentation from the NJDOT that the bridge would not be opened by the end of the year, the Township Council passed Resolution 2026-R199. The resolution explicitly demands that Governor Sherrill, Senators Booker & Kim, and Congresswoman Watson-Coleman personally step in to expedite Amtrak's safety reviews, permit approvals, and track outage allocations. The Township Council has repeatedly been requesting a timeline for the opening of the bridge.

Mayor Marathe issues an open invitation to Governor Sherrill, Senators Booker and Kim, and Congresswoman Watson-Coleman to visit the bridge and realize the gravity of the situation.

ONE YEAR IS TOO LONG. WEST WINDSOR NEEDS ANSWERS, INTERAGENCY ACCOUNTABILITY, AND A BRIDGE THAT IS OPEN.

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https://www.westwindsortwp.gov/clarksville-bridge-update/index.php