

RESOLUTION PETITIONING GOVERNOR MIKIE SHERRILL TO DECLARE A STATE OF EMERGENCY  
FOR THE CLARKSVILLE ROAD CORRIDOR PURSUANT TO THE EMERGENCY SERVICES ACT

- WHEREAS, on November 2, 2025, the New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT) ordered the emergency closure of the Clarksville Road Bridge (CR 638), Bridge over Amtrak, located in West Windsor, NJ, due to severe structural corrosion discovered during a routine inspection; and
- WHEREAS, the Clarksville Road Bridge serves as a critical regional artery, supporting an Annual Average Daily Traffic (AADT) volume of approximately 15,000 vehicles, many of whom utilize the corridor to access the Princeton Junction Train Station, employment, commerce, education, residential neighborhoods, and emergency response routes; and
- WHEREAS, the continued closure has resulted in a public safety crisis, with emergency response times for West Windsor Fire, EMS, and County Hazmat teams often extended to four times their normal length and significantly putting residents at risk due to compromised response routes; and
- WHEREAS, the bridge closure is overwhelming local residential streets with excessive traffic volume, leading to double the normal rates of traffic accidents while causing local gridlock, as reported by the West Windsor Police Department; and
- WHEREAS, the continued bridge closure causes transportation disruptions throughout the West Windsor-Plainsboro School District, from pre-school through high school; and
- WHEREAS, the bridge closure adversely affects over 1200 directly isolated residents, as well as affecting indirectly over 30,000 other West Windsor residents, and over 25,000 Plainsboro residents in the joint West Windsor-Plainsboro School District, as well as additional residents in the surrounding area; and
- WHEREAS, small businesses along the Clarksville Road corridor, particularly within Village Square, have reported catastrophic revenue losses exceeding 50% due to the loss of pass-by traffic and may be forced to permanently close; and
- WHEREAS, critical repairs and structural assessments remained in a state of administrative gridlock for over three months due to the inability to quickly secure inspection permits from Amtrak, whose federal jurisdiction over the Northeast Corridor (NEC) rail lines has delayed state and local efforts to plan repairs or produce a timeline, showing a need to prioritize this project with Amtrak at the national level to proceed with actual repairs; and
- WHEREAS, the Clarksville Bridge was already deemed structurally deficient and slated for replacement, and on August 22, 2022 the West Windsor Township Council adopted Resolution 2022-R193 in support and endorsement of the NJDOT Preliminary Preferred Alternative Plan to replace the "structurally deficient and functionally obsolete Clarksville Road Bridge over Amtrak."; and
- WHEREAS, the Mayor and Township Council finds that a State of Emergency would provide local and state agencies effective authority and leverage to compel timely action or coordination from Amtrak; and
- WHEREAS, the continued absence of a defined inspection or repair timeline, combined with procedural impediments beyond local control, constitutes an extraordinary and escalating emergency condition that cannot be resolved through routine intergovernmental processes; and
- WHEREAS, the Mayor and Township Council further finds that executive-level intervention is necessary and urgent to protect public safety, stabilize the local economy, and restore essential transportation infrastructure; and

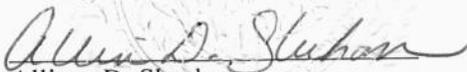
WHEREAS, a clear precedent for such intervention exists in Executive Order No. 383 (2025), wherein a State of Emergency was declared for Route 80 sinkholes to bypass administrative red tape, expedite construction through emergency procurement, and establish the "Route 80 Business Assistance Grant Program".

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of West Windsor, County of Mercer, State of New Jersey, as follows:

1. Petition for Emergency Declaration: The Mayor and West Windsor Township Council formally petition Governor Mikie Sherrill to issue an Executive Order declaring a State of Emergency for the Clarksville Road corridor to elevate the bridge's status from a "local maintenance issue" to a "critical safety crisis".
2. Federal Intercession: The Mayor and Council request the Governor utilize the authority of the State of New Jersey to intervene with the U.S. Department of Transportation to compel Amtrak to prioritize the necessary track outages for NJDOT repair crews.
3. Emergency Procurement and Reduction of Bureaucratic Procedures: The Mayor and Council urge the use of the Emergency Declaration for the authorization of emergency procurement powers and a reduction of ordinarily required bureaucratic procedures to allow for the immediate installation of a temporary steel bridge, deck reinforcement or other temporary solution to restore traffic flow.
4. Economic Assistance: The Mayor and Council request the activation of the New Jersey Economic Development Authority (NJEDA) to establish a "Clarksville Corridor Business Assistance Grant" and to facilitate access to federal SBA Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDL) for impacted local merchants.
5. Expedited Bridge Replacement: The Mayor and Council urge the Governor to expedite the permanent replacement of the Clarksville Bridge as per the adopted NJDOT Preliminary Preferred Alternative Plan adopted on August 22, 2022.
6. Distribution: A certified copy of this resolution shall be forwarded to the Office of Governor Mikie Sherrill, U.S. Senator Corey Booker, U.S. Senator Andy Kim, State Senator Shirley K. Turner, Representative Bonnie Watson Coleman, General Assemblywoman Verlina Reynolds-Jackson, General Assemblyman Anthony S. Verrelli, Mercer County Executive Dan Benson, the Board of County Commissioners, the Commissioner of the NJDOT and the President of Amtrak.

Adopted: February 24, 2026

I hereby certify the above resolution was adopted by the West Windsor Township Council at their meeting held on the 24<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2026.

  
Allison D. Sheehan  
Township Clerk  
West Windsor Township