

October 9, 2026

West Windsor Township Council
271 Clarksville Road
West Windsor, New Jersey 08550

Re: Resolution 2026-R199 Regarding the Clarksville Road Bridge Emergency Repair Project

Dear Mayor Marathe and Members of the West Windsor Township Council:

Thank you for sharing Resolution 2026-R199 concerning the emergency repair and temporary reopening of the Clarksville Road Bridge. Amtrak understands the disruption the bridge closure has caused for West Windsor residents, emergency responders, commuters, and local businesses. We share the Township's interest in advancing the repairs and restoring safe access as quickly as possible.

I also want to clarify Amtrak's role and the actions we have taken to support the project.

The Clarksville Road Bridge is owned by the New Jersey Department of Transportation, which is responsible for the project's design, contracting, funding, schedule, and construction. Because the bridge crosses Amtrak's Northeast Corridor, Amtrak must review the work and provide the access, safety coordination, and railroad support necessary for construction to proceed safely.

Amtrak has worked closely with NJDOT and its contractor throughout the emergency repair effort. Our teams have participated in recurring coordination meetings, expedited technical and safety reviews, and worked directly with the project team to resolve issues that could otherwise delay access to the railroad right-of-way.

Among other actions, Amtrak:

- completed its review of the emergency repair design and issued a Letter of No Exception on September 11, signifying the conclusion of NJDOT's design review and Amtrak's acceptance of the design for implementation;
- allowed the contractor to seek an amendment to an existing permit rather than begin an entirely new permitting process;
- expedited review of the applicable insurance and force-account requirements;
- worked directly with the contractor to develop and refine the Site-Specific Safety Work Plan, providing detailed guidance on exactly what needed to be addressed to facilitate



approval and minimize additional review cycles. The process required nine rounds of comments and revisions with the contractor and was still completed more quickly than the typical 45-day review period;

- considered alternative payment arrangements – including a lower upfront payment for railroad protection – to ensure commercial issues did not unnecessarily delay the emergency repairs; and
- coordinated the required inspection of contractor equipment in anticipation of the start of emergency construction.

We recognize the Township's request that Amtrak provide the track outages, electrical outages, and safety personnel needed to support the project. Work above an active railroad requires close coordination among Amtrak, NJ TRANSIT, the contractor, and the personnel responsible for maintaining safe railroad operations. We will continue to make every reasonable effort to identify workable construction windows and provide the necessary support while protecting passengers, workers, and railroad operations.

We also understand the Township's interest in whether other planned service disruptions could create additional opportunities for work at Clarksville Road. Amtrak will continue to evaluate those opportunities with NJDOT and its contractor as operating and safety conditions permit.

Amtrak is committed to being a constructive partner in completing these emergency repairs. We will continue working with NJDOT, its contractor, NJ TRANSIT, and the Township to resolve outstanding matters and move the project forward safely and without unnecessary delay.

Thank you for your advocacy on behalf of the West Windsor community. We will keep the Township informed as this work progresses.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Byl Herrmann", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Byl Herrmann
Interim President, Amtrak