

## Clarksville Road Bridge Update (20 Mar 26)

I have been in constant contact with the Governor's office regarding progress on the Clarksville Road Bridge. Last Friday (13<sup>th</sup>) I spoke with the newly nominated commissioner of the NJ Department of Transportation Priya Jain.

Last Friday the 13<sup>th</sup> turned out to be a good omen. We had a great conversation. I updated her on the lack of progress since November 2<sup>nd</sup>. Ms. Jain has worked in private sector and has dealt with Amtrak. I am happy to say that she assured me that this is top priority for the Governor and her.

Actions speak louder than words. Following my conversation with Ms. Jain, we saw significant activity at the bridge starting Monday March 16<sup>th</sup>, Personnel from NJ DOT, their contractor and Amtrak have been working on the bridge inspection since then. They have assured me that they will be there until the inspection is complete. Amtrak was even allowing work during the day with a flag person on the track. I and couple of council members visited the site to chat with workers. We have much better understanding about the progress.

However, this is just the beginning with inspection. Once inspections are finished, they will analyze the report before giving us the options of what can be done with the bridge and timeline. Originally, they insisted it would take them 4 weeks. I am trying to collaborate with the commissioner to speed up the timeline. I expect to discuss it with them next week once they are finished with their inspections.

Even if I do not post updates constantly, rest assured that both council members and I are constantly in touch with elected officials to make sure this issue remains on top of their list until it is resolved.

Thanks to everyone who signed the petition and help keep this issue on every elected official's radar.