



WEST WINDSOR TOWNSHIP

September 30, 2026

Dear Governor Sherrill, Senator Booker, Senator Kim, Congresswoman Watson-Coleman,

The Clarksville Road Bridge crisis has reached a critical breaking point, and we need your immediate, direct intervention today.

On September 28, 2026 the West Windsor Township Council unanimously adopted a resolution requesting your intervention with Amtrak to expedite its approvals and provide the maximum possible track outage opportunities to repair the Clarksville Road Bridge. **We are asking you to advocate for our community on this matter as soon as possible.**

The bridge has been closed since November 2, 2025, heavily impacting 15,000 daily vehicles, increasing emergency response times, disrupting school transportation and creating financial hardships for local businesses. NJDOT has completed its designs and is ready to temporarily reopen the bridge to one-way traffic before the end of 2026 as originally planned. However, this timeline depends heavily on Amtrak approving the necessary track outages, catenary de-energizations, and safety flagging personnel over the Northeast Corridor.

The upcoming service reductions due to work on the Portal North Bridge from October 10 through November 16 present an important, time-sensitive opportunity to secure the track outages NJDOT needs to make substantial progress. We respectfully ask you to contact Amtrak leadership directly to insist that they:

1. **Prioritize Outstanding Reviews:** Expedite the approval of NJDOT's outstanding Site-Specific Safety Work Plans and construction permits.
2. **Maximize Track Outages:** Provide the maximum allowable track outage windows.
3. **Ensure Resource Allocation:** Commit the necessary catenary de-energization and safety flagging personnel so that scheduled work windows can be fully utilized.

While railroad safety remains the highest priority, we believe these essential safety measures can be coordinated efficiently to avoid unnecessary project delays. Thank you for your continued attention to this urgent matter and for your support in helping safely reopen this vital regional corridor. Please provide us an update on your outreach to Amtrak.

Sincerely,

Sonia Gawas
Council President

Andrea Mandel
Council Vice President

On behalf West Windsor Township Council

CC: Senator Turner, Assemblywoman Reynolds-Jackson, Assemblyman Verrelli, County Executive Benson, Members of the Mercer County Board of Commissioners, CEO of Amtrak, NJDOT Commissioner Jain and West Windsor Mayor Marathe