

RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION CALLING UPON AMTRAK TO EXPEDITE PERMIT REVIEWS, SITE-SPECIFIC SAFETY WORK PLAN APPROVALS, AND TRACK OUTAGE ACCESS TO SUPPORT NJDOT'S REPAIR AND TEMPORARY REOPENING OF THE CLARKSVILLE ROAD BRIDGE

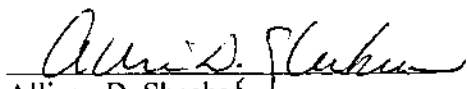
- WHEREAS, on November 2, 2025, the New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT) ordered the emergency closure of the Clarksville Road Bridge (County Route 638) over the Amtrak Northeast Corridor (NEC) rail line due to severe structural corrosion discovered during a routine inspection; and
- WHEREAS, the Clarksville Road Bridge serves as a vital regional arterial corridor carrying approximately 15,000 vehicles per day, connecting commuters to the Princeton Junction Train Station, businesses, educational institutions, and residential neighborhoods across Mercer and Middlesex Counties; and
- WHEREAS, the bridge closure has created an ongoing public safety and traffic emergency quadrupling Fire, EMS, and Mercer County Hazmat response times, increasing traffic accident rates on alternate local detour routes, and severely disrupting school transportation across the West Windsor-Plainsboro Regional School District; and
- WHEREAS, local merchants, particularly within the Village Square commercial area, continue to suffer catastrophic financial hardships with reported revenue losses exceeding 50 percent; and
- WHEREAS, the West Windsor Township Council previously adopted Resolution 2026-R051 petitioning Governor Mikie Sherrill to declare a State of Emergency to eliminate bureaucratic obstacles and accelerate infrastructure remedies; and
- WHEREAS, NJDOT, under Commissioner Priya Jain has completed structural designs and initiated field fabrication, establishing a plan to temporarily reopen the bridge as a one-lane structure controlled by traffic signals prior to the end of 2026 while concurrently advancing designs for a permanent replacement bridge; and
- WHEREAS, because the bridge spans high-voltage electrified rail lines on Amtrak's Northeast Corridor, construction activities are strictly constrained to limited overnight and weekend work windows requiring catenary wire de-energization, dedicated safety flagging, and track outages; and
- WHEREAS, the project contractor and NJDOT have been submitting Site-Specific Safety Work Plans (SSSWP) and permit requests to Amtrak for review; and
- WHEREAS, Amtrak and New Jersey Transit will be reducing service from October 10, 2026 through November 16, 2026 due to work on the Portal North Bridge, providing increased opportunities for shutdown for work on the Clarksville Bridge during this time window; and
- WHEREAS, the Township Council recognizes that maintaining the target schedule to safely reopen the bridge to traffic before the end of the year requires continuous, prioritized coordination and expedited administrative approvals from Amtrak.

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. Demand for Amtrak Prioritization: The Township Council formally urge Amtrak leadership to give top organizational priority to the Clarksville Road Bridge repair project by expediting the review and approval of Site-Specific Safety Work Plans (SSSWP), signal configurations, and necessary construction permits.
2. Track Outage and Safety Resource Allocation: The Council respectfully requests that Amtrak allocate maximum allowable track outage windows, catenary wire de-energizations, and dedicated safety flagging personnel to NJDOT and contractor to prevent project delays during overnight and weekend work hours.
3. Intervention by our Representatives: The Council respectfully requests that Governor Sherrill, Senator Booker, Senator Kim, and Congresswoman Watson-Coleman intervene federally to expedite approvals and secure maximum Amtrak track outages, ensuring the repair and reopening of the Clarksville Road Bridge.
4. Interagency Collaboration: The Council urges continued close coordination between Amtrak, NJDOT, the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), Mercer County, and West Windsor Township to accelerate both the single-lane temporary restoration and the long-term permanent bridge replacement.
5. Distribution: A certified copy of this resolution shall be forwarded to:
 - Chief Executive Officer of Amtrak
 - The Board of Directors of Amtrak
 - The Honorable Mikie Sherrill, Governor of New Jersey
 - Priya Jain, Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Transportation
 - U.S. Senator Cory Booker
 - U.S. Senator Andy Kim
 - Representative Bonnie Watson Coleman
 - State Senator Shirley K. Turner
 - Assemblywoman Verlina Reynolds-Jackson
 - Assemblyman Anthony S. Verrelli
 - Dan Benson, Mercer County Executive
 - The Board of County Commissioners of Mercer County

ADOPTED: September 28, 2026

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the West Windsor Township Council at their meeting held on the 28th day of September, 2026.


Allison D. Sheehan
Township Clerk
West Windsor Township