

**Remarks Prepared for FRA Administrator Amit Bose
Portal North Bridge Milestone Celebration
Kearny, NJ
Monday, May 13, 2024**

Good morning, everyone,

Thank you to NJ Transit for inviting me to be here and for organizing this event. And, thank you to Amtrak.

I want to recognize all the Senate and House members who helped make today possible, and being here with representatives Pascrell, Menendez, and Sherrill is a pleasure.

The Federal Railroad Administration is excited about the progress being made on the Portal North Bridge.

I am proud to be here today with familiar partners from NJ Transit, the Gateway Development Commission, and colleagues from across the US Department of Transportation to mark the halfway point on a project that will reduce disruptions and delays and increase train speeds as well as reliability and safety.

In the not-too-distant future, the Portal North Bridge will no longer be known as a major chokepoint on the Northeast Corridor but rather as a major link connecting people and communities across the East Coast.

The USDOT has recognized the importance of this project for years, with investments being made across several DOT programs to replace the current 114-year-old swing bridge here in New Jersey.

Of course, the Portal North Bridge shares the distinction of being over a century old with several other bridges and tunnels along the Northeast Corridor.

And, now, thanks to President Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, we are finally making progress to replace and upgrade these aging structures. This will allow for increased speeds, reduced travel time, and more reliable passenger service for hundreds of thousands of Americans.

Just last November, FRA announced more than \$16 billion dollars in grants for 25 projects of national significance up and down the Northeast Corridor.

In New Jersey, this includes billions of dollars to help replace the Sawtooth Bridges, rehabilitate the Dock Bridge, construct the Declo lead, and improve Newark Penn Station.

\$3.8 billion in FRA grants, made possible by President Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, are also going towards the rehabilitation and expansion of the Hudson River Tunnel between New York and New Jersey.

Today is another reminder that progress is well underway to modernize and improve America's busiest rail corridor.

It's a reminder of what we can achieve when we invest in critical infrastructure and work together to deliver important infrastructure projects.

I also know today is just the beginning. More groundbreaking and project milestones are ahead.

With five years of total funding from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, there are still more investments to be made and more opportunities to ensure vital infrastructure in and around New Jersey and along the Northeast Corridor is meeting the needs of 21st-century travelers.

I look forward to continuing to work closely with so many of you as we continue to modernize America's busiest rail corridor, tackle long-standing infrastructure needs, and deliver the world-class passenger rail Americans deserve.

Today technically kicks off infrastructure week, but as the President has said many times before, this will be an "infrastructure decade."

This is particularly true for rail, and I am confident that, thanks to the president's investments, we will see and feel a clear difference in rail infrastructure in New Jersey and along the Northeast Corridor.

Congratulations, and thank you for your time.