May 18, 2015

Hon. John J. Degnan, Chairman
The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey
4 World Trade Center
150 Greenwich Street
New York, NY 10007

Dear Chairman Degnan:

I am writing to express my extreme disappointment with the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey’s decision, made behind closed doors with no prior public notice or input, to reduce PATH service to Hoboken. Given that the Hoboken PATH station has seen the highest ridership growth in the State, I write to formally request that this decision be reversed. I am stunned both at the cut in service and in the non-public way in which the decision was made.

Last month, peak service to Hoboken was reduced by 14 percent and late evening service was cut by 18 percent. Inexplicably, these service cuts were made to the New Jersey PATH station with the highest ridership growth. According to the data available on your website, ridership at the Hoboken station has increased from an average of 19,890 passengers per day in 2012 to 22,078 passengers per day in 2014. This 11 percent growth rate is the highest of any PATH station in the State.

The change reduces the number of trains on the Hoboken to 33rd Street line from 19 trains to 16 trains during the morning peak period (7:30am to 9:30am) and from 24 trains to 21 trains during the evening peak period (4:30pm to 6:45pm) from 33rd Street to Hoboken. Late evening (9pm to midnight) service is being cut from 11 trains to 9 trains.

Even before the service cuts, PATH riders were forced to endure standing with little to no room to move during the rush hour commute, and at times have had to wait for the next train to arrive to find space. Now, not only are commuters faced with additional wait times and a reduction in PATH service, but they will also face additional overcrowding. With more and more residents depending on the PATH as their primary mode of transportation,
the Port Authority should be examining ways to increase the amount of trains to and from Hoboken, not reducing service.

I urgently request that the Port Authority restore the level of service provided to Hoboken before these recent cuts were made and provide a full explanation as to the process in which these changes were made and the information that was evaluated in making this ill-considered decision. Furthermore, I request that if any service changes are considered in the future, that they be done in a much more transparent manner with ample opportunity for public notice and input. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Dawn Zimmer

Cc: Hon. Chris Christie, Governor, State of New Jersey
Hon. Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor, State of New York
Patrick J. Foye, Executive Director, Port Authority of New York and New Jersey
Tina Lado, Director of Government & Community Relations, Port Authority of New York and New Jersey
Port Authority Board of Commissioners
PATH Riders’ Council
Hoboken City Council