



BERGEN *County* **NEW JERSEY**

For Immediate Release

October 22, 2015

Tedesco Addressed Senate Legislative Oversight Committee

(Hackensack)- On Tuesday, October 20, 2015, Bergen County Executive Jim Tedesco addressed the New Jersey Senate Legislative Oversight Committee about proposed Port Authority reform legislation and other Bergen County transportation priorities.



Tedesco voiced his support for the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey Transparency and Accountability Act of 2015 (Senate bill S3066 and Assembly bill A4637).

“This legislation will bring about positive changes to an agency that many Bergen County residents rely upon for daily travel. Unfortunately, the Port Authority has made it agency practice to operate in secret, informing stakeholders about critical decisions and policy changes as they are being implemented or after they have been finalized,” said Tedesco. “As I made clear in my testimony at the Port Authority following the George Washington Bridge Lane Closures, this is unacceptable. The Port Authority has a responsibility to the people it serves, to the people who fund its operation, to regularly include stakeholders in policy discussions before making or executing major decisions that will impact the lives and businesses of hundreds of thousands. The days of last minute hearings, surprise toll increases, and unilateral decisions to increase public transit fares or eliminate routes without community input must be over now.”

Tedesco also advocated for the Port Authority to return to its core mission, quoting the agency’s own recent special report: “the Port Authority must recommit itself to its core mission of facilitating transit through the region for the millions of commuters, visitors, and cargo carriers who rely on its transportation infrastructure, ensuring that these facilities are worthy of the people and businesses they serve.”

In that spirit, Tedesco called for the agency to support the Gateway Project, improve ferry operations serving eastern Bergen County, and upgrade the heavily trafficked midtown Port Authority Bus Terminal.

Tedesco concluded his remarks with a plea to the committee for support for two critical transportation projects: expansion of State Route 17 and the completion of the Bergen portion of the Bergen-Hudson Light Rail.