



July 24, 2009

Mr. John J. Matheussen  
CEO, DRPA & President of PATCO  
One Port Center, 2 Riverside Drive  
Camden, NJ 08101-1949

Re: Support for Light Rail Line Expansion in South Jersey

Dear Mr. Matheussen:

On behalf of New Jersey Future, I would like to offer my sincere congratulations to the DRPA on the selection of a preferred alignment for the expansion of light rail to Gloucester County. As an organization founded to support the State Development and Redevelopment Plan, New Jersey Future strongly agrees with the State Planning Commission that, of the options presented, the selected alignment most closely conforms with the goals of the State Plan.

From Hudson and Bergen Counties in the North to Burlington and Camden Counties in the South, we have seen in recent years the incredible economic growth that strategic transit investments can bring. Beyond providing a safe, reliable and efficient mode of transportation, investments in mass transit bring opportunities for sustainable, transit-oriented development that can provide new transportation and housing options to residents seeking an alternative to auto-dependant neighborhoods. This is especially true in the case of the proposed PATCO extension, which promises to breathe new life into the downtowns of many of Gloucester County's historic communities, much in the same way that transit-oriented development has sparked revitalization in towns like Collingswood and Rahway.

New Jersey Future looks forward to working with the DRPA to bring this proposed light rail line to fruition, and to achieve the type of smart, sustainable growth that is envisioned in New Jersey's State Development and Redevelopment Plan.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter Kasabach", written over a horizontal line.

Peter Kasabach  
Executive Director