

RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE EXPANSION OF THE NEW JERSEY TURNPIKE

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Turnpike Authority (“NJTA”) is pursuing the Newark Bay - Hudson County Extension Improvements Program and other expansions across New Jersey, which involve widening the NJ Turnpike. In 2022, the NJTA estimated the cost of the Turnpike Extension expansion to be \$10.7 billion alone and over \$6 billion for the new construction of an expanded Newark Bay Bridge; and

WHEREAS, recognized principles in highway engineering, including the concept of *induced demand*, underscore that highway widenings can worsen congestion and lead to increased traffic volume; and

WHEREAS, the surge in traffic will exacerbate roadway pollution, including air pollution from gas-powered vehicles that emit harmful pollutants and Greenhouse Gasses (“GHGs”), such as particulate matter (PM 2.5) and ground-level ozone, that have been found to disproportionately impact vulnerable citizens and those living in overburdened communities; and

WHEREAS, New Jersey has committed, through Executive Order 274, to reduce GHG emissions by 50% from 2006 levels by 2030 (the "50x30 Goal"), necessitating transformative investments in sustainability and clean energy to combat climate change and pollution; and

WHEREAS, the transportation sector constitutes the largest contributor of GHG emissions in the United States and in New Jersey, accounting for approximately 40.6% of New Jersey’s GHG emissions, highlighting the need for a significant GHG reduction from the sector to achieve the 50x30 Goal; and

WHEREAS, NJTA has not presented adequate traffic studies or cost-benefit analyses regarding the Turnpike Expansion, leaving project effectiveness and impact on local communities uncertain; and

WHEREAS, the considerable funds earmarked for the Turnpike Expansion could be reallocated to enhance and repair transportation infrastructure, thereby reducing turnpike congestion and GHGs; and

WHEREAS, investments in sustainable public transportation infrastructure, especially for underserved communities, can provide economic opportunity and an improved quality of life for all.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE UNDERSIGNED, THE CITY COUNCIL CALLS FOR:

- 1: The NJTA to immediately halt any expansion of the NJ Turnpike; and
- 2: All current and future NJTA projects to undergo a comprehensive analysis of their climate, economic, and public health impacts, and provide ample opportunities for public input, to assess their effects on local communities before initiation and continuation. Projects found to harm any, especially overburdened communities, should be rejected; and
- 3: The State of New Jersey and the NJDOT to incentivize, support, and prioritize statewide investments in public transportation, repair projects, railways, safe streets, bikeways, and walkways which alleviate traffic and advance New Jersey’s transportation infrastructure with the goal of protecting the health and safety of its residents, businesses, and institutions; and
- 4: This resolution will be forwarded to New Jersey state legislators to advocate for sustainable transportation initiatives at the statewide level.

Please send a copy of all adopted resolutions of support to info@anjec.org
A copy of this model resolution can be found at <https://anjec.org/action-alerts/>

Signature

Date

Print Name

Municipality