

COUNTY OF HUDSON



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

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**THOMAS A. DE GISE
COUNTY EXECUTIVE**

Mr. Kevin O'Toole
Chairman
Port Authority of New York and New Jersey
4 World Trade Center
New York City, NY 10007

Mr. Rick Cotton
Executive Director
Port Authority of New York and New Jersey
4 World Trade Center
New York City, NY 10007

Dear Chairman O'Toole and Director Cotton:

I write to you today to express my support for the construction of a PATH station on the existing track in the Marion section of Jersey City. The presence of an above ground station would bring tremendous benefit not only to the residents in the Marion neighborhood, but also to residents throughout Jersey City.

This project is a logical and imperative step towards improving access, mobility and affordability in the community, while contributing to potential development growth. Currently underserved, Jersey City's growing Marion section has increasingly limited access to public transportation; in particular, the Housing Authority has been largely inaccessible, disenfranchising countless low-income families. The addition of a PATH station in the Marion section will provide more access to these residents, as well as to schools and employment. Another key benefit to building this station, will be reducing pedestrian commute time, especially as the city is expected to see a 28% increase in population by 2030. This station will also provide the groundwork for future development of varied uses fueling strong economic growth. Given that 26.3 percent of households in the Marion neighborhood do not own a car, a safe and accessible transportation hub is essential for this community's mobility and quality of life.

Over the last decade, the western half of Jersey City has experienced unprecedented growth. In 2021 alone, nearly 1800 new units are scheduled to come online in Journal Square, with another 13,000 already approved in the pipeline. This combined with the additional traffic created by a renovated Lowes Theater, iconic Pompidou Center, and the expanded county presence in the new Frank J. Guarini Justice Complex, will put the already busy Journal Square PATH stop under incredible strain.

Combining these factors with the reality of climate change, the Port's committed to their own carbon footprint and the increased onset of flooding, makes the development of a PATH stop for the Marion neighborhood even more critical. Marion has been identified as a future flood zone.

The construction of a PATH station will be essential to the area's economic viability, providing benefits to the Marion neighborhood and Jersey City. I ask that you give all due consideration to the project and thank you in advance for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Thomas A. DeGise". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial 'T'.

Thomas A. DeGise
Hudson County Executive