



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

**Federal Railroad  
Administration**

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

FEB -6 2008

Ms. Dorothy Guzzo  
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer  
New Jersey Historic Preservation Office  
501 East State Street  
P.O. Box 404  
Trenton, NJ 08625-0404

**Re: Portal Bridge Capacity Enhancement Project – Draft Environmental Impact Statement  
Hudson County, New Jersey**

Dear Ms. Guzzo:

As you know, the National Railroad Passenger Corporation (Amtrak) and the New Jersey Transit Corporation (NJ TRANSIT) are proposing capacity enhancements to the Hackensack River crossing of the Northeast Corridor including the New Jersey State Register (SR) listed Portal Bridge. The project sponsors are seeking approvals from the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), and as such, a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) is being prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) (as amended). Additionally, the project will be subject to the New Jersey Register of Historic Places Act; Section 4(f) of the United States Department of Transportation (DOT) Act; and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966 (as amended).

At this time, in compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, FRA is providing for your review and comment the following draft documentation that presents determinations of effect on historic resources:

- (a) Preliminary draft of the Historic Resources chapter (Chapter 5.2) of the Portal Bridge Capacity Enhancement Project Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS);
- (b) Draft Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) among the FRA, Amtrak, NJ TRANSIT, and New Jersey Historic Preservation Officer regarding the Portal Bridge Capacity Enhancement Project.
- (c) Preliminary draft of Appendix B-1 to the DEIS, "Historic Resources: Background History and Review of Previously Conducted Surveys;"

We look forward to receiving your comments on these documents. Please do not hesitate to contact Mr. David Valenstein of this office at (202) 493-6368 if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Mark E. Yachmetz  
Associate Administrator  
For Railroad Development

Enclosures

cc: John Wilkins, NJ TRANSIT  
Dara Callender, NJ TRANSIT  
Ken Kulick, Amtrak  
Robert Conway, AKRF