



April 17, 2009

John Mathewssen, Executive Director
Delaware River Port Authority
One Port Center, 2 Riverside Drive
P.O. Box 1949
Camden, NJ 08101

Dear Mr. Mathewssen:

The League of Women Voters of New Jersey has reviewed the DRPA Southern New Jersey to Philadelphia Mass Transit Expansion Alternatives Analysis (PATCO Line Extension), and compared the alternatives with our policies on transportation, energy and Smart Growth in mind.

We believe that the alignment of the rail extension in Gloucester County will have a significant impact on future land use patterns; therefore, we strongly urge the DRPA to adopt the alignment that runs along the existing rail line through established downtowns to Glassboro. In addition, we prefer the variation of this alignment that utilizes light rail technology, thus allowing more local stops.

Using the existing rail route will encourage the increasing number of residents who work in Gloucester County to use rail for their commutes, rather than highways. And having rail stations in the towns will help revitalize these historic centers. While the alignments that run along highway medians might relieve some of the traffic congestion, they would encourage low-density sprawl away from the established towns at greater cost to tax payers and the environment, a development we strongly oppose.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this important proposal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anne Maiese". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Anne Maiese, President, LWVNJ
cc: Congressman Rob Andrews
Gloucester County Freeholders