

LACKAWANNA COALITION

Box 283  
Millburn, N.J. 07041

June 18, 2009

Mr. John J. Matheussen, Chief Executive Officer  
Delaware River Port Authority  
One Port Center, 2 Riverside Drive  
Box 1949  
Camden, N.J. 08101

Re: South Jersey Regional Transit Plan

Dear Mr. Matheussen:

Please accept this letter as our comment on the proposed South Jersey plan which has been the subject of several meetings during the past few weeks.

The Lackawanna Coalition has represented the interests of rail riders on the Morris & Essex Line and the communities in which they live since 1979. We also advocate for improved rail service on the Montclair-Boonton Line, as well as for improved connecting transit for the riders in our community of interest.

Although the South Jersey region is outside our geographic purview, we consider it appropriate to compliment DRPA on the selection of the rail alternative that will serve the riders of the communities in your study area.

We have been informed that construction of rights-of-way in the medians of Highways 42 and 55 were also under consideration, as alternatives to the rail line to Woodbury and Glassboro. We believe that effective rail transit must serve the communities where riders live and work, and must also be reached on foot, as well as by connecting bus service. The chosen alternative fulfills these conditions, which will enable residents, workers and visitors to gain improved access to the activity centers of the communities in your region.

We consider the choice of rail transit that serves downtown area, as opposed to lines connecting primarily park-and-ride stations, to be a wise one. Transit-dependent persons will have easy access to the new line, and persons who have access to an automobile will have a new transportation alternative that does not exist today. We also believe that enhanced bus service along highways makes more sense than relocating a new rail line along those highways.

I personally look forward to riding the new line to Glassboro, and I suggest that your organization look into the possibility of eventually extending the line to Millville and beyond.

Yours very sincerely,



DAVID PETER ALAN  
Chair