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March 5, 2021

Gateway Development Commission
2 Penn Plaza East
Newark, New Jersey 07105

New York Building Congress Comments to the Gateway Development Commission

The New York Building Congress continues its strong support of the Gateway Program, which remains the most urgent infrastructure project in the nation and an organizational priority in our 2021 Policy Agenda. As such, we congratulate the Gateway Development Commission on this initial organizational meeting of the Board and the election of its Co-Chairs.

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Building Congress believes the Gateway Program should serve as a cornerstone of the region's recovery. In conjunction with recent initiatives, the program will revitalize the Northeast Corridor (NEC) and create a world-class transportation rail hub for New York City. Aspects of the program are already underway, such as the Hudson Yards concrete casing and replacement of the Portal Bridge, and we should progress the next phase by taking advantage of the momentum created by Amtrak, New York State and the federal government.

In the last quarter, New York State opened the Moynihan Train Hall, adopted a general project plan for the Empire Station Complex, and released renderings of a new Port Authority Bus Terminal. The Biden administration recently rescinded the Federal Transit Administration's (FTA) policy on the Capital Investment Grants program, which clears a major bureaucratic hurdle for state transit infrastructure projects, including the Gateway Program. We appreciate those efforts, as this is precisely the type of intergovernmental cooperation we need to modernize our infrastructure and move the economy forward. We hope to see a Record of Decision on the Hudson Tunnel EIS move forward after three years of inaction.

As a candidate, President Biden vowed to invest \$1.3 trillion on infrastructure, and now we are calling on Congress and the Biden administration to put forth and approve a robust and comprehensive bipartisan package that delivers on this promise. We also urge Senate Majority Leader Schumer, Transportation Secretary Buttigieg and Deputy Secretary Trottenberg to earnestly create sustainable funding programs to make America a global leader in infrastructure. Critically, any national infrastructure package must include funding for the Gateway Program.

We once again remind our leaders that infrastructure investment has a history of creating jobs and strengthening the economy in this country. Direct government funding has resulted in some of the most transformative infrastructure projects with the greatest lasting effects. We have been delayed in moving this program forward, and every day that we do not make progress adds millions of dollars to the project's overall cost.

Investing in the Gateway Program can pave the way for our country's economic success, and both the thousands of Americans that will be meaningfully employed and millions of passengers served will be better for it.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Carlo Scissura', written in a cursive style.

Carlo A. Scissura, Esq.
President & CEO
New York Building Congress