

ROBERT J. MENENDEZ
8TH DISTRICT, NEW JERSEY

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY
AND COMMERCE

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October 1, 2026

Governor Mikie Sherrill
Office of Governor
PO Box 001
Trenton, NJ, 08625

President and CEO Kris Kolluri
NJ TRANSIT
2 Gateway
283-299 Market Street
Newark, NJ, 07102

Commissioner Priya Jain
New Jersey Department of Transportation
1035 Parkway Ave
Ewing Township, NJ, 08618

Dear Governor Sherrill, Mr. Kolluri, and Ms. Jain,

Thank you for your continued partnership in serving New Jersey, and your efforts to improve public transit and passenger rail. I write as the Representative from New Jersey's Eighth Congressional District to express support for the improvement and expansion of the Hudson-Bergen Light Rail ("HBLR"). I have heard from countless constituents regarding the need for improved service, infrastructure upgrades, and service extensions. I urge NJ TRANSIT and the state to consider prioritizing funding to meet these demands.

Despite transporting more than 55,000 riders each weekday through New Jersey's most densely populated region, the system has not been expanded since 2011 and has failed to receive adequate funding.

Hudson County Complete Streets and riders across the region are urging for service upgrades, including more frequent off-peak service, advancing the extension across Route 440, building the Northern Branch Extension, and additional network upgrades and modernization. I strongly believe that these updates will have positive impacts on our region. More frequent train service during off-peak hours will allow more residents to travel across the region to reach their jobs, appointments, and families while also increasing safety and preventing overcrowding on railcars. It will also mitigate the impacts of delays, cancellations, and missed connections. In addition, extended service and increased connectivity will ensure that investments such as those along Jersey City's Hackensack River will be successful. Making network modernization upgrades will ensure increased transit connectivity with other public transit and passenger rail lines and make the system more functional for riders.

Therefore, I request written responses to the following questions by October 30, 2026.

Please review HBLR operations and scheduling planned for Fall 2026 and provide an estimate for the costs for delivering 10-minute off-peak service.

Please provide a timeline for planning and construction on the western extension across Route 440.

In addition, I urge NJ TRANSIT to thoroughly study and consider extending service to Newark's Ironbound neighborhood and Newark Penn Station. Such an extension would be a tremendous benefit for our region by providing more interconnection between Newark and Jersey City. By connecting two developing and diverse communities via light rail, we can ensure that the benefits of ongoing housing and other community investments in both cities are fully realized.

Further, I urge NJ TRANSIT to build the Northern Branch Extension to fully bring "Bergen" into the Hudson-Bergen Light Rail without any further delays. I also urge the agency and state to pursue potential infill stations at 18th Street in Jersey City and 15th Street in Hoboken/Union City, prioritize the Hoboken Wye Bypass, and make other overdue technological upgrades such as live train tracking.

Investment in the HBLR isn't just about transit, it's about building a stronger regional economy. It delivers access to jobs, schools, and opportunity for hundreds of thousands of New Jersey residents. I respectfully urge you to make these projects a priority. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Robert J. Menendez
Member of Congress
New Jersey's Eighth Congressional District