

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
October 24, 2018



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## **Gateway Development Corporation Releases Photos and Video of 200-foot Utility Pole Being Lifted into Place**

### *Important milestone in early construction work on Portal North Bridge project*

Secaucus, NJ – The Gateway Program Development Corporation (GDC) announced a significant milestone in the \$20 million early works package for construction of the Portal North Bridge, constructing the initial sections of a 222-foot utility “monopole” that will carry high-voltage transmission lines supplying power to Northeast Corridor trains in and out of New York. [Video and still photos of the work can be seen here.](#)

The first four sections of the new monopole were hoisted into place Saturday with a second, roughly 200-foot pole to be constructed nearby. The work is one of five early construction activities NJ TRANSIT is overseeing on the Portal North Bridge project to replace the 107-year-old "swing bridge" with a modern, 2.3 mile long, higher-clearance fixed bridge.

The early construction work is taking place on both the east and west sides of the Hackensack River. Other projects include completed construction of a “finger pier” to serve construction barges, 5,560-foot retaining wall that forms the foundations for new approach tracks to the new bridge, construction of a steel bridge to protect water utilities and moving fiber optic cables that supply data to Wall Street. The projects are on budget and on schedule for completion in early 2019.

**New Jersey Trustee Jerry Zaro** said, “Governor Murphy appointed me to GDC to make sure every project that can be done to move Gateway forward is getting done. The early construction on Portal North Bridge is part of the many projects that will ultimately make up the huge undertaking of building Gateway – the most critical transportation infrastructure program in the nation.”

“Governor Cuomo and GDC are completely focused on replacing the century old Portal Bridge and Hudson Tunnel to protect 200,000 daily riders and 10% of the nation’s infrastructure,” said **GDC Chairman Steven M. Cohen**. “Today’s monopole move is just another small step in this much bigger effort.”

**GDC Vice Chairman Tony Coscia** said, “We aren’t waiting for anyone else to start building a 21<sup>st</sup> Century transportation link at the heart of the Northeast Corridor. Today’s move demonstrates again that Gateway is moving forward, and we’ll keep moving it forward piece by piece, until we replace a more than century old bridge and tunnel that puts too many of this region’s people and this nation’s economy at risk.”

The early construction work package is an example of on the ground coordination between the Gateway partners. The contract is held by NJ TRANSIT, the project sponsor on the Portal North Bridge, but work is being performed on property owned by Amtrak, whose engineers support and coordinate protection for the contractors working on the premises.

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*The Gateway Program is the most urgent infrastructure program in the country – a comprehensive rail investment program that will improve commuter and intercity services, add needed resiliency and create new capacity for the busiest section of the Northeast Corridor (NEC). The NEC is the most heavily used passenger rail line in the country hosting more than 2,200 train movements and 800,000 passenger trips daily. The Gateway Program Development Corporation (GDC) is a New Jersey not-for-profit entity with Board members representing Amtrak and the States of New York and New Jersey. It was incorporated in 2016 to oversee and effectuate the Gateway Program in coordination with federal and local partner agencies. Follow the GDC on Twitter [@GatewayProgNews](#).*