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January 30, 2023

Christopher Lee.
Senior External Relations Manager, Intergovernmental Affairs
Port Authority NY NJ
4 World Trade Center
150 Greenwich Street, 24th Fl.
New York, NY 10007

Dear Mr. Lee:

At its Full Board meeting on January 19, 2023, Community Board #2, adopted the following resolution:

1. Resolution in response to presentation by the Port Authority NY NJ on plan to switch nighttime closures at the Holland Tunnel from the South tube (inbound) to the North Tube (outbound) (as part of the Hurricane Sandy repair project) early in 2023.

Whereas the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey (PANYNJ) presented their plan for Phase 2 Hurricane Sandy repairs and flood mitigation to occur at the Holland Tunnel's north tube (NY to NJ) beginning 01/05/2023, completion expected end of the 3rd quarter 2025, along with an update on Phase 1 work (occurring from 2020 to the present at the Tunnel's south tube (NJ to NY), completion expected 02/03/2023). The presentation showed that the north tube will be closed for repair work (like the south tube in Phase 1 was) Sunday through Thursday 11 pm - 5:30 am, Friday 11:59 pm - 9 am (no closures Saturday and all work suspended during major traffic holidays). Further details are in the attached report, including types of repairs, plans for mitigation and outreach; and

Whereas both Community Board 2 Manhattan's (CB2) Traffic and Transportation Committee and public attendees were pleased that the PANYNJ is doing this very necessary and extensive repair work and flood mitigation, but some were concerned about potential impacts arising with traffic disruption from the north tube closure, especially nighttime noise disturbances and dangerous vehicular conflicts; and

Whereas some suggested that, in addition to the several mitigation measures that PANYNJ is intending to pursue, perhaps PATH fares could be waived during closure to encourage the system's use in place of driving alternative routes in the absence of the Tunnel's north tube access; and

Whereas although CB2 welcomes PANYNJ's plan to work with the NYC DOT and NYPD to have Traffic Enforcement Agents (TEAs) stationed on Canal St. at the intersections of Varick St., Hudson St. and Route 9A to familiarize people with the closing and diversion routes and help them through the intersections, it was noted that the Broome-Watts St. approach to the Holland Tunnel needs TEA coverage as well, with speeding traffic coming at night from the Williamsburg Bridge that in its rush will get to 6th Ave. or Varick St. and lacking information won't know where to go, causing confusion, backups and general traffic disruption; and

Whereas CB2 recognizes that PANYNJ's representatives indicated that they'd have their traffic engineering department examine the Broome-Watts corridor and consider its inclusion for TEA coverage, and that they would encourage using the PATH system as a useful alternative to driving although they weren't sure that the fare could be waived;

Therefore be it resolved that CB2 thanks PANYNJ for their very clear and informative presentation, their continued dedication working to repair the Hurricane Sandy damages to the Holland Tunnel and to mitigate the negative effects of this work, as well as for their responsiveness to CB2's input; and

Be it further resolved that CB2 urges PANYNJ to work with the NYC DOT and NYPD to station TEAs on Broome St. at Broadway to provide advance notice of the Tunnel closing and advice on alternative route options at this key location as well as to work with these agencies to place signage on Broome at Lafayette St. for the same purpose; and

Be it finally resolved that CB2 asks PANYNJ to consider eliminating PATH fares during the time the north tube of the Holland Tunnel is closed for repairs of Hurricane Sandy damages, starting earlier than the 11:00/11:59 pm north tube closing times and ending a little later than the 5:30 am north tube Sunday through Thursday opening time, i.e. waiving PATH fares 7 pm - 6am Sunday through Thursday and 7 pm - 9 am Friday (giving more leeway to users), in order to encourage using PATH in preference to driving on alternative routes while the Tunnel is closed.

Vote: Unanimous, 45 Board Members in favor

Please advise us of any decision or action taken in response to this resolution.

Sincerely,



Jeannine Kiely, Chair
Community Board #2, Manhattan



Shirley Secunda, Chair
Traffic & Transportation Committee
Community Board #2, Manhattan

JK/EM

cc: Hon. Dan Goldman, Congressman
Hon. Brian Kavanaugh, NY State Senator
Hon. Deborah J. Glick, NY Assembly Member
Hon. Mark Levine, Manhattan Borough President
Hon. Erik Bottcher, Council Member