

**PORT AUTHORITY
TRANS-HUDSON CORPORATION**

Clarelle DeGraffe
Director/General/ Manager

March 22, 2023

Dear Hackensack River Waterway User:

As you are aware, Port Authority Trans Hudson Corporation ("PATH") has been addressing certain engineering issues experienced by the Hackensack Bridge (the "Hack Bridge" or "Bridge") over the Hackensack River near Jersey City, New Jersey. PATH uses the Hack Bridge to carry a commuter rail transit facility serving thousands of passengers every day, with approximately one train traversing the Hack Bridge every 4 to 5 minutes during rush hours, 15 minutes during other peak periods and 20 minutes on weekends. In June 2020, PATH requested that the United States Coast Guard ("Coast Guard") provide a reasonable limitation on Hack Bridge openings for navigational traffic to non-rush hour periods during the continuance of the coronavirus pandemic emergency, as the Bridge has had some difficulty in "re-seating" and can cause significant station crowding during rush hours when it cannot be used after an opening. This result is particularly pernicious in a time when there is a premium on social distancing both in the station and on the trains when they are finally able to run. Last spring, the Coast Guard approved additional limitations with the following parameters:

- 1) By appointment on weekends and following 24 hours' notice, PATH will use all reasonable efforts to arrange a mutually acceptable time for commercial river users to pass under the Hack Bridge,

PATH is very appreciative of the Coast Guard's willingness to make this temporary change in Hack Bridge protocols. As you know, the Hack Bridge is a 100-year-old facility which has not been aggressively refurbished since the 1980's. As expressed in our last letter dated October 22, 2020, PATH is willing and able to correct these deficiencies – however, retrofitting the controls cannot be completed until 2023 and PATH understands from the Coast Guard that it cannot grant PATH permission to keep the Bridge entirely closed for such a long period of time.

After considerable study and discussion with PATH's Engineering Department and outside consultants, PATH would like to request the following reasonable restrictions to Hack Bridge going forward. PATH makes this proposal despite its attendant additional cost and engineering effort and believes it is reasonable in light of the public health and welfare concerns of overcrowding to PATH riders.

Timeframe	Opening Parameters	Ongoing Construction
March 24, 2023 through September 23, 2023	<p>PATH to accommodate weekday openings except during the hours of 6AM-10AM and 3PM – 7PM.</p> <p>By appointment and 24 hours' notice, PATH will use all reasonable efforts to arrange a mutually acceptable time for commercial river users to pass under the Hack Bridge.</p> <p>For tide restricted commercial vessels, the draw of the PATH Bridge, mile 3.0, will approve one opening during 6AM – 7AM and 3PM – 4PM 6PM-7PM, if at least a 24-hours' notice is provided.</p>	<p>Arrange for full crew to staff all openings to immediately address any controls malfunction.</p> <p>Ongoing maintenance project to replace old motors and controls will continue and complete by 4Q 2023</p>

Thank you for your cooperation and understanding as we work to preserve both rail and waterway transportation. Please feel free to reach to me at 201.216.6899 should you have any questions or wish to discuss further.

Very truly yours,



Clarelle DeGraffe

Director/General Manager

PATH