



NEW JERSEY GENERAL ASSEMBLY

AMY H. HANDLIN, PH.D.
ASSEMBLYWOMAN, 13TH DISTRICT
MONMOUTH-MIDDLESEX COUNTIES
890 MAIN STREET
TOWNSHIP OF MIDDLETOWN
BELFORD, NJ 07718
EMAIL: ASWHandlin@njleg.org
PHONE: (732) 787-1170
FAX: (732) 787-0356

COMMITTEES
EDUCATION
JUDICIARY

June 3, 2009

Diane Gutierrez-Scaccetti
Executive Director, New Jersey Turnpike Authority
P.O. Box 5042
Woodbridge, NJ 07095-5042

Dear Ms. Gutierrez-Scaccetti,

I am writing to you regarding the proposed construction of a telecommunications tower at Garden State Parkway milepost 109 in Middletown, Monmouth County. I have visited the proposed site and this tower would be located in a residential neighborhood. The residents in the area are understandably concerned. None of the individuals who have called my office had any prior notice of this proposal.

I am formally requesting that you hold another hearing in order to give the public the opportunity to adequately comment on the proposed tower. As per Executive Order 172 the Turnpike Authority is required to give:

- Adequate public notice to advise of a proposed project that is not an emergency or routine maintenance project, and;
- A forum which permits the Authority to make a public presentation of its plans and *which allows those affected to adequately voice their opinions, recommendations and suggestions in a timely manner.*

[Executive Order 172] (emphasis added)

I do not believe that these requirements were satisfied in this case and feel that proper notice and an opportunity to comment are owed to these citizens prior to the construction of the tower. The intent of the order was to **allow the opportunity for maximum public comment** as part of the project development process. Not one resident was in attendance at the August 2007 hearing. However, upon learning of this proposal, my office has been inundated with calls from concerned citizens. This demonstrates that the notice in the Asbury Park Press published two years ago was inadequate and not designed to allow maximum public comment.

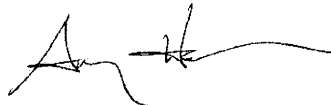
As Executive Order 172 clearly states:

In recognition of the vital importance of public input to the implementation of transportation projects so as to identify community values and concerns with respect to the nature of the alternatives and the concerns and constraints that need to be accounted for in order to safeguard the public interest; and WHEREAS, To assure that potential adverse effects and local concerns relating to any proposed project on these highways have been fully considered in the development of such project, and that the final decisions on the project are made in the best overall public interest; taking into consideration the need for fast, safe and efficient transportation and attendant services, and the cost of minimizing such adverse effects on communities and natural resources and the disruption of community cohesion and aesthetic values.

[Executive Order 172]

A second public hearing in which the residents of the immediate area are given actual notice is necessary to fulfill the mandate in Executive Order 172.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Amy Handlin', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Assemblywoman Amy Handlin

cc: Governor Jon Corzine
Mr. Stephen Dilts, Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Transportation
Middletown Mayor Pamela Brightbill
Middletown Council