

August 16, 2011 1:36:00 PM from Juan Carlos Rodriguez
to Host & Presenter: My name is Juan Carlos Rodriguez and I live in New York City. I strongly support the NY & NJ Port Authority Plan. As a resident of New York and frequent commuter of the NJ Turnpike I am pleased with the Port Authority's proposal. The expected E-ZPass usage increase will also be great.

August 16, 2011 1:38:52 PM from Abe Martinez
to Host & Presenter: My name is Abe Martinez and I am from the Bronx. As a family man, I don't want my wife and kids traveling on crumbling highways, bridges and tunnels. The George Washington Bridge and Lincoln Tunnel need major work to be safe and support the current volume of traffic. Traffic makes the air dirtier, which can cause asthma in kids. Because I would rather spend my time safely and happily with my family, than stuck in traffic on rough roads, I support the Port Authority's user fee increase.

August 16, 2011 1:39:06 PM from Juba McCray
to Host & Presenter: My name is Juba McCray, and I live in the Bronx. I support the Port Authority's fare and toll increase to fund the Authority's Capital Plan

August 16, 2011 1:40:38 PM from Eugene Sparano
to Host & Presenter: My name is Eugene Sparano and I am a New York City commuter from Old Bridge, NJ. As a father and commuter, I support toll increases to fund the Port Authority's capital plan. The projects in the capital plan constitute real economic stimulus without burdening taxpayers. The plan will create jobs and increase the cost-effectiveness of doing business in our region by improving the transportation infrastructure

August 16, 2011 1:41:21 PM from
to Host (privately): My name is: I strongly support the NY & NJ Port Authority Plan. As a resident of New York I was stunned to hear that the suspender ropes on the George Washington Bridge have never been replaced in 80 years. For me that is a huge concern, especially with the images of the Minnesota bridge collapse stuck in my head.

August 16, 2011 1:41:36 PM from Bernard Callageri
to Host & Presenter: My name is Bernard Callageri and I'm from Queens, NY. Every year, millions of people travel Port Authority crossings, billions of dollars of goods travel through the Authority's ports, and thousands of airplanes pass through our airports. For many years, I worked to build New York City; that work will all be lost if no one makes an investment in maintaining and improving infrastructure. I know that you can't just construct a building and walk away, without constant maintenance, it will crumble. The Port Authority needs toll revenue to keep our regional transportation system from crumbling.

August 16, 2011 1:42:43 PM from
to Host (privately): My name is and I am from Long Island, NY. Spending on our states' infrastructure has been cut drastically on maintenance and improvements. Jobs have also been lost. In these tough economic times, it is necessary for everyone to sacrifice. I am willing to pay more to help spur needed job creation, economic development, improved transportation systems, and safer infrastructure. I encourage you to approve the toll increase.

August 16, 2011 1:43:01 PM from Don Howard
to Host & Presenter: My name is Demetrius Deramus and I work in New Jersey. I can honestly say that sitting in hours of traffic, breathing polluted air and risking my life on unsafe roads is a far greater burden than paying a higher toll. If my choice is between paying a higher toll or letting the Lincoln Tunnel and George Washington Bridge fall into disrepair, I'll pay the toll.

August 16, 2011 1:43:02 PM from Dylan Klein
to Host & Presenter: Increased tolls are unfortunate but, in this case, necessary. With increased tolls vital improvements to infrastructure can take place so that NJ and NY can continue to prosper.

August 16, 2011 1:43:29 PM from Mike Labate
to Host & Presenter: My name is Mike Labate and I am from Long Island, NY. Spending on our states' infrastructure has been cut drastically on maintenance and improvements. Jobs have also been lost. In these tough economic times, it is necessary for everyone to sacrifice. I am willing to pay more to help spur needed job creation, economic development, improved transportation systems, and safer infrastructure. I encourage you to approve the toll increase.

August 16, 2011 1:43:49 PM from
to Presenter (privately): My name is and I'm from Harlem, NY. I strongly support the NY & NJ Port Authority Plan. The region depends on the stream of individuals and goods through the, bus, marine terminals, bridges, tunnels, airports all operated by the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey. Maintaining and investing in these facilities is vital.

August 16, 2011 1:44:02 PM from
to Host (privately): My name is and I am from East Windsor, NJ. I am writing because I support the Port Authority's toll increase and capital investment. In the past few weeks, politicians in Washington were afraid to make tough decisions and we will be seeing the economic consequences for a long time. It is a hard choice for politicians to approve Port Authority toll and PATH train fare increases, but we cannot keep using trains, buses and tunnels without paying for them. I cross the bridges and tunnels to get to work; my children use them to get to school; my parents use them to go to the doctor in the City; and the goods I buy travelled on them to get to me. Without access to them, much of my life would come to a halt, and I am happy to pay for them.

August 16, 2011 1:44:10 PM from Bob DeClementi
to Host & Presenter: My name is Bob DeClementi and I am from Barnegat Bay, NJ. I want you to approve a toll increase for the Port Authority New York and New Jersey crossings. A decision to increase tolls is likely to be unpopular, but we need it for the safety and economy of our region. You may not want to approve a toll increase, but the Port Authority, the backbone of our region, needs the revenue.

August 16, 2011 1:45:32 PM from Daniel Mota
to Host & Presenter: My name is Daniel Mota and I live in Brooklyn. There's no such thing as a free ride. My work has me commuting across the river almost daily. I know that this toll increase will directly increase my cost of living, but it is also a reasonable burden I can bear.

August 16, 2011 1:45:53 PM from Brad Barrie
to Host & Presenter: My name is Brad Barrie and I work in New Jersey. We need this plan to happen. Working in New Jersey, I'm very aware of the risks of terrorism. September 11th cost the Port Authority a lot of money and we as Americans need to support them. Failure to fund the Port Authority puts residents at risk.

August 16, 2011 1:46:22 PM from
to Host (privately): I strongly support the NY & NJ Port Authority Plan. As a commuter between New York and New Jersey I depend on the region's roads, bridges and highways. In order for the Port Authority to enact its determined 10-year capital plan, which will benefit all New Yorkers & New Jerseyans it must have adequate funding.

August 16, 2011 1:46:23 PM from Mike Prohaska
to Host & Presenter: My name is Mike Prohaska and I am from the Bronx. A toll increase for the Port Authority crossings is necessary for the safety of the metropolitan area. 9/11 changed the way that we look at things and has made us more aware of the vulnerabilities of our country. Without sufficient funding, I fear that the security of our bridges and tunnels is compromised.

August 16, 2011 1:46:33 PM from Felice Segura
to Host & Presenter: My name is Felice Segura. I live in Brooklyn and commute to New Jersey. I support this plan because the Port Authority is a major vehicle of commerce and economic development in this region. Don't let our economy idle in traffic. Approve this plan.

August 16, 2011 1:46:41 PM from
to Host (privately): My name is and I am from Queens, NY. While no one likes toll increases, I believe that the most effective way to raise the funds we need to make transit improvements is to approve the proposed toll increase. This will provide an essential benefit to all who use Port Authority crossings.

August 16, 2011 1:47:10 PM from Dave Johnson
to Host & Presenter: My name is Dave Johnson. I live in Kendall, Park New Jersey and often commute to New York City for

work. I support this toll increase because it is the responsible thing to do. Unfortunately, it is our responsibility to fix the transportation system we inherited. I believe it would be wrong to borrow money and pass the debt on to future generations.

August 16, 2011 1:47:39 PM from Bret Castillo

to Host & Presenter: My name is Bret Castillo and I am from Long Branch, NJ. Right now, many politicians are attacking waste in government. The Port Authority is not proposing taxes to pay for improvements and they already cut all the waste. More waste will grow from refusal to fix our bridges. Port capacity will be wasted when tankers cannot reach or use them. And millions of people will waste their time on congested roadways.

August 16, 2011 1:48:16 PM from Andy Culpepper

to Host & Presenter: My name is Andy Culpepper and I am from Long Island, NY. On September 11th, I saw terrorists destroy the World Trade Center. Six years later, wear and tear brought down a bridge in Minnesota. Today, I support the Port Authority's toll increase because it will keep the bridges and tunnels my family, neighbors, friends, and co-workers and I use safe and secure.

August 16, 2011 1:48:26 PM from David Vila

to Host & Presenter: My name is David Villa, I live in Bronx NY, I use the roads, bridges and tunnels built and maintained by the Port Authority. I am willing to pay my share to ensure that those road, bridges and tunnels are efficient and safe.

August 16, 2011 1:48:37 PM from Nicole Johnson

to Host & Presenter: My name is Nicole Johnson and I work in New Jersey. I support the Port Authority's plan because the river crossings are important to the economies of the metropolitan area. The bridges and tunnels are a means of keeping goods and services moving which affects the economy on local, national, and global levels. If our transportation infrastructure collapses, so does our area.

August 16, 2011 1:49:07 PM from Byron Silva

to Host & Presenter: My name is Byron Silva and I am from Long Island. The recession caused Port Authority's financial problems; ignoring that need will only contribute to the recession. New York regional ports, roads, bridges and tunnels need upgrades in order to keep working. Please approve the toll increase to keep our region and economy moving.

August 16, 2011 1:50:02 PM from

to Host (privately): My name is and I work in New Jersey. I can honestly say that sitting in hours of traffic, breathing polluted air and risking my life on unsafe roads is a far greater burden than paying a higher toll. If my choice is between paying a higher toll or letting the Lincoln Tunnel and George Washington Bridge fall into disrepair, I'll pay the toll.

August 16, 2011 1:50:02 PM from Joe Cestaro

to Host & Presenter: My name is Joe Cestaro and I am from Staten Island, NY. I strongly support the NY & NJ Port Authority Plan. Every morning my commute consists of the Goethals Bridge and NJ Turnpike. I feel that the projects are in need of critical support. Living in NY and commuting to NJ and just being able to get to work in a safe and efficient manner will make for a successful commute.

August 16, 2011 1:50:11 PM from

to Host (privately): My name is and I am from Union, NJ. I support this plan because I don't mind paying a little more if it means there will be less traffic.

August 16, 2011 1:50:51 PM from Nicole Vecchione

to Host & Presenter: My name is Nicole Vecchione. I live in East Hanover, NJ and rely on the PATH to get to work. Our area has one of the highest unemployment rates in the country. Capital investments by the Port Authority would create jobs and have a significant impact on construction unemployment.

August 16, 2011 1:51:03 PM from Carlos Diluca

to Host & Presenter: My name is Carlos Diluca, and I live in the Bronx. I am writing to express my support for the Port Authority's Capital Plan.

August 16, 2011 1:51:06 PM from
to Host (privately): My name is , and I live in the Bronx. I am writing to express my support of the Port Authority's Capital Plan.

August 16, 2011 1:51:46 PM from
to Host (privately): My name is and I live New York. I work hard to feed my family and save for my children's education. I think of this toll increase as I do work: it's not easy, but it's the right thing to do.

August 16, 2011 1:52:21 PM from Leonardo Naranjp
to All Panelists: My name is Leonardo Naranjo and I live in Queens. As daily commuter I support the toll increase. The amount of time I spend every day in traffic could be spent in a more efficient way and often times I've been late to important family events. Most of the bridges and tunnels are in a dire state of disrepair and the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey is facing an immense fiscal challenge. A responsible way of raising the much needed revenue would be to approve the toll increase proposed by the Port Authority.

August 16, 2011 1:53:04 PM from Joe Montalbano
to Host & Presenter: My name is Joe Montalbano and I am from Long Island. I strongly support the NY & NJ Port Authority Plan. In order to maintain our existing infrastructure and build for the future, revenue is needed. We must accept the toll and fare increase if we expect to maintain and improve our infrastructure.

August 16, 2011 1:53:14 PM from
to Host (privately): My name is and I am from South River, NJ. Imposing higher tolls will not only create jobs, but it will also provide a more efficient transportation system that is heavily plagued by congestion and delays. I am willing to contribute more to improve the infrastructure, especially if it means safer roads and decreased traffic.

August 16, 2011 1:53:17 PM from Dino Esemplare
to Host & Presenter: My name is Dino Esemplare, from Marlboro, NJ. As a musician, I travel to shows around the region. If I am late, I don't get paid for a gig. Faster, safer and more efficient roads will help me get

August 16, 2011 1:53:18 PM from
to Host (privately): hello?

August 16, 2011 1:53:43 PM from Oona Adams
to Host & Presenter: My name is Oona Adams and I live in Brooklyn, NY. I commute from the City to New Jersey almost every day. I am writing to you to support the toll increase for Port Authority bridges and tunnels. Increasing user fees is a fair and responsible way to fund the capital plan. Investment in infrastructure improvements provides an excellent way to stimulate job creation and the economy.

August 16, 2011 1:53:49 PM from Carlos Ortega
to Host & Presenter: My name is Carlos Ortega and I am a New York City resident. The Port Authority cannot perform maintenance and upgrades without more revenue. If the Port Authority cannot make improvements, it will cost thousands of jobs. Who knows what will happen in our region in the years to come. Please make an investment in our region and approve a toll and fare increases.

August 16, 2011 1:53:53 PM from
to Host (privately): am I in correct place for the port authority hearing? is there a way to call in?

August 16, 2011 1:54:12 PM from Angelo D'arenio
to Host & Presenter: May name is a Angelo D'Areino and I live in Clifton NJ. The Port Authority needs the money from the fee increases to maintain our bridges and tunnels.

August 16, 2011 1:54:44 PM from Franklin Ortega

to Host & Presenter: My name is Franklin Ortega and I am an New York City commuter. I won't be excited to pay more in tolls this September, but I will be satisfied as I watch my investment fund critical road improvements. I care about the safety and efficiency of our road systems, and I care about the men and women who that money will put to work. That is why I support the Port Authority's plan.

August 16, 2011 1:55:15 PM from

to Host (privately): Hello?

August 16, 2011 1:55:37 PM from Leonel Lopez

to All Panelists: My name is Leonel Lopez and I am from New Jersey. I have family members who use the various crossings every day and often times I am concerned about their safety and well-being. Capital improvements will encourage security and safety. I am willing to participate in the shared sacrifice that is necessary to improve our crossings. We need a safe, secure, and efficient transportation system and we need to put people to work now. Increasing user fees is a fair and responsible way to fund the Port Authority's capital plan.

August 16, 2011 1:56:15 PM from helen bolcik

to Host & Presenter: you should rethink of the fare pricing especially for the path with only a 18 minute ride is it worth a whole extra dollar it is not worth it

August 16, 2011 1:56:16 PM from Johan Garcia

to Host & Presenter: My name is Johan Garcia and I live in Queens and am a frequent New York City commuter. I strongly support the NY & NJ Port Authority Plan. Improvements to the Bayonne Bridge and other NY & NJ Port Authority Projects will make commerce more efficient and reduce congestions. These improvements will also speed the flow of business to the region which is critical to future development. It will benefit us in the end.

August 16, 2011 1:56:40 PM from Port Authority of New York & New Jersey

to All Participants: If you're just joining us, the audio and visual portion of the online hearing will begin at 2:00 p.m. Thank you.

August 16, 2011 1:57:01 PM from

to Host (privately): Is there a way to call in?

August 16, 2011 1:57:40 PM from

to Host (privately): My name is and I am from Queens, NY. No one likes tolls, but I realize that they are necessary in order to maintain our roads and infrastructure. Port Authority tolls pay for the maintenance of this infrastructure. Without a toll increase, the Port Authority will not be able to make the necessary infrastructure repairs and perform critical maintenance on our roads and bridges.

August 16, 2011 1:57:54 PM from Anthony W Williamson

to Host & Presenter: My name is Anthony Williamson. I'm a Brooklyn resident and I support the fare increase for Port Authority bridges and tunnels and the PATH train. Millions of people, families and companies use our roads, ports and airports, and they are generally overcrowded. Nobody wants higher fees, but something has to give, and I would rather it not be the safety of my family, the regional economy, or security at our major ports.

August 16, 2011 1:58:06 PM from Chaz Rynkiewicz

to Host & Presenter: My name is Chaz Rynkiewicz and I'm a New York City commuter from Old Bridge, NJ. I know it is hard to ask residents to pay more for transportation, but I am happy to pay for my family's safety and security. The Port Authority needs money to pay for security at ports, airports, bridges and tunnels. Bridges and tunnels do not just stand for decades, they need constant work to stay intact. After the bridge collapse in the Midwest, I worry about a collapse in the region. Terrorist attacks and failing bridges have happened and I worry it will happen here. I know that approving a toll increase is a tough choice, but it is also the right choice.

August 16, 2011 1:58:16 PM from
to Host (privately): A point of information, a reporter covering the hearing and not a participant

August 16, 2011 1:59:06 PM from Edgar Simpson
to Host & Presenter: My name is Edgar Simpson, and I live in Manhattan. I am writing to express my support of the Port Authority's Capital Plan to get our roads moving faster.

August 16, 2011 1:59:45 PM from Marcelo Idrovo
to Host & Presenter: My name is Marcelo Idrovo and I am from Harrison, NJ. I commend the Port Authority of NY & NJ and support the toll and fare proposal that will invest in economic growth throughout the region. Additional fare funds will continue to ensure much needed capital and infrastructure investment projects.

August 16, 2011 2:00:39 PM from Port Authority of New York & New Jersey
to All Attendees: We are about to begin the audio visual portion. All audio will be captioned on screen in case you cannot hear.

August 16, 2011 2:00:54 PM from Gerry Balmir Jr.
to Host & Presenter: My name is Gerry Balmir. I live in Trenton, but business often takes me to New York City. I support the Port Authority's plan for two reasons: it will create jobs and it's about time. The Port Authority operates some of the older and more congested facilities in the nation. We currently pay below the regional average for use of these facilities. If raising tolls will allow the Port Authority to improve their services (and get me out of traffic), then I'm all for it.

August 16, 2011 2:02:15 PM from Edward Pichardo
to Host & Presenter: My name is Edward Pichardo and I am from the Bronx. I commute to New Jersey regularly and the traffic is a nightmare. I also know a ton of people who have been laid off. Please approve the toll increase to make traffic better and get people working.

August 16, 2011 2:03:34 PM from
to Host (privately): I am and I am from Brooklyn, NY. I am for the Port Authority's proposed toll increase. Improvements to our infrastructure will reduce congestion and delays, create jobs in a time of high unemployment, and jumpstart economic development. These are all things that we can agree on that are imperative to our state's future.

August 16, 2011 2:04:20 PM from
to Host (privately): My name is and I live in Brooklyn and am a NYC commuter. The Port Authority is not tax payer funded, therefore creating and raising revenue is the only way to keep the agency and our infrastructure operating at adequate levels. I use the George Washington Bridge daily and recently learned that the suspension ropes have yet to be replaced. It concerns me that an 80-year old bridge that serves as a connector between NY and NJ isn't maintained as well as others.

August 16, 2011 2:04:23 PM from
to Host (privately): From what I have read, the revenue received from the planned increase in tolls would go to pay for the construction of the world trade center

August 16, 2011 2:04:28 PM from Oscar Borrero
to Host & Presenter: My name is Oscar Borrero and I live in Brooklyn and am a NYC commuter. The Port Authority is not tax payer funded, therefore creating and raising revenue is the only way to keep the agency and our infrastructure operating at adequate levels. I use the George Washington Bridge daily and recently learned that the suspension ropes have yet to be replaced. It concerns me that an 80-year old bridge that serves as a connector between NY and NJ isn't maintained as well as others.

August 16, 2011 2:04:43 PM from
to Host (privately): How are people supposed to live and travel.

August 16, 2011 2:04:52 PM from
to Host (privately): will there be an opportunity for listeners to speak?

August 16, 2011 2:05:15 PM from
to Host (privately): Why can't the port authority raise the funds from private investors?

August 16, 2011 2:05:43 PM from
to Host (privately): It seems like the burden is born on those of us who use the bridges

August 16, 2011 2:05:47 PM from Gerry Kraft
to Host & Presenter: My name is Gerry Kraft and I'm from Long Island. I commute to New York City every day. This proposal is good for our economy and good for the environment. I support it 100%. Raising user-fares is a responsible and fair way to raise the capital needed to make the transportation improvements that keep our economy healthy. The immediate influx of quality, construction jobs is an added benefit to the strategically sound, long-term benefits of this plan.

August 16, 2011 2:05:51 PM from Antonio Pena
to Host & Presenter: My name is Antonio Peña, and I live in the Bronx. I support the Port Authority's plan to increase tolls and PATH train fares to fund their Capital Plan.

August 16, 2011 2:05:56 PM from
to Host (privately): Cut expenses

August 16, 2011 2:06:16 PM from Chris Columbia
to Host & Presenter: My name is Chris Columbia and I am from Staten Island. I support a toll increase at Port Authority crossings. My City has supported a great economy, but things aren't looking good. I cannot count how many of my friends and relatives who have lost jobs in the past four years. I have read that the toll increase will support a \$33 billion capital program that will generate 185,633 jobs, that's good enough for me.

August 16, 2011 2:06:19 PM from
to Host (privately): This type of fare hike with the way the economy is still trying to get back together will put people in a worse condition to live on a daily bases.

August 16, 2011 2:06:36 PM from Ada Torres
to All Panelists: As a former resident of Hudson county for many years, I am here to express my opposition Port Authority of New York & New Jersey's plan to increase fares on PATH trains and on its bridges and tolls for many reasons:

August 16, 2011 2:06:49 PM from
to Host (privately): those that works for the Port Authority should also contribute by relinquishing part of there salary

August 16, 2011 2:06:51 PM from
to Host (privately): will there be a q & a portion to the hearing?

August 16, 2011 2:06:59 PM from
to Host (privately): Also, with property taxes increasing every where this is really putting the public in a bad place with finances.

August 16, 2011 2:07:01 PM from Erika Montgomery
to Host & Presenter: My name is Erika Montgomery and I live in East Windsor, NJ. I support the Port Authority's toll increase because it will make the region's roads safer, faster, and more secure. It will also create 185,000 jobs, a win for everyone.

August 16, 2011 2:07:32 PM from
to Host (privately): how do I join the teleconference?

August 16, 2011 2:07:38 PM from
to Host (privately): My name is and I am from Queens, NY. The Port Authority's river crossings need repairs. The toll increase will provide additional funding that can be used on capital improvements to better the way we live, work and play.

August 16, 2011 2:08:08 PM from
to Host (privately): since they are gainfully employed and could possibly lose out if there are any layoffs

August 16, 2011 2:08:24 PM from Barry Laskowski
to Host & Presenter: My name is Barry Laskowski from Mt. Ephraim NJ. I understand that nobody wants to pay higher tolls. But, the increases don't seem too bad to me compared to what we'd be getting, jobs and safe bridges and tunnels seems like a bargain to me.

August 16, 2011 2:08:41 PM from Daniel Krupinski
to Host & Presenter: My name Daniel Krupinski and I live in Queens. I support the Port Authority's plan to increase tolls. I don't want to pay more, but I am willing to if it makes traveling safer and more convenient for me and my family. Transportation is a quality of life issue. Unnecessary time spent getting from home to work is time away from each other – time we could be spending sharing meals and watching my kids' softball games.

August 16, 2011 2:08:45 PM from
to Host (privately): In addition, what happens when volume crossing these bridges and tunnels in question go down?

August 16, 2011 2:08:56 PM from
to Host (privately): Are you going to raise the tolls again?

August 16, 2011 2:09:13 PM from
to Host (privately): There has to be a better way to build money to support changes that doesn't affect the transportation system in such extremes.

August 16, 2011 2:09:49 PM from
to Host (privately): May be these changes shouldn't be so immediate if at all possible.

August 16, 2011 2:09:52 PM from
to Host (privately): My name is I work in New Jersey and frequently commute to New York City. In a time when government is cutting back everywhere it can and the Port Authority itself has decreased its workforce by 200, any plan that is as financially and socially sound as this user-based fare increase has my support. The plan will create 185,000 jobs and provide critical infrastructure improvements without raising taxes. As far as I'm concerned, there is no logical argument against it.

August 16, 2011 2:09:54 PM from
to Host (privately): Am I the only one here?

August 16, 2011 2:10:01 PM from
to Host (privately): Hi, my name is and I'm a resident of Vineland NJ. I'm writing to support the Port Authority proposal. In these tough economic times it hurts to pay more for anything. However, we must invest in our country to support our infrastructure, create jobs and restart our economy. God Bless you and God Bless America

August 16, 2011 2:10:02 PM from
to Host (privately): The amount of money you are asking of commuters and ny/nj locals is out of sync with today's economic restraints. The average salary increase over the past 2 years was 2-3%, yet you are asking people to contribute way beyond that and honestly what they can afford.

August 16, 2011 2:10:05 PM from
to Host (privately): There is so much needless spending in companies that the port authority would be able to cut some fat from your expenses

August 16, 2011 2:10:26 PM from
to Host (privately): The timing of this fare hike is most inopportune given the current economic climate. I understand the necessity for raising funds, but at the rate of over 57% and at this moment in time, it is very hurtful to the pockets and

household economies of the customers who pay for these increased rates. Perhaps a less steep increase can be entertained, at least until the economy recovers some.

August 16, 2011 2:10:31 PM from
to Host (privately): Hi..Howard and Benjy are beautiful men, so beautiful, such pretty eyes, and Gary has nice hair and so does FFred...and Robin she is a beauty...Benjy also has wonderful calves

August 16, 2011 2:10:41 PM from
to Host (privately): My name is and I am a New York City resident. I support the Port Authority's toll and PATH fare increase because it will reduce congestion and air pollution, making the air my kids breathe cleaner.

August 16, 2011 2:10:41 PM from
(privately): The timing of this fare hike is most inopportune given the current economic climate. I understand the necessity for raising funds, but at the rate of over 57% and at this moment in time, it is very hurtful to the pockets and household economies of the customers who pay for these increased rates. Perhaps a less steep increase can be entertained, at least until the economy recovers some.

August 16, 2011 2:10:43 PM from
to Host (privately): I think this was a poor effort by the Port Authority to engage in aggressive cost cutting measures. Non police force were reduced, but you had 5 top police officials making in excess of 100,000 dollars. I think this is a mockery of the system, and an abuse of privilege. You have had the largest amount of increases in the past 15 years, only to be compared with the MTA, which in and of itself is another irreputable organization. It is time for change. The panel of Port Authority members should be removed, and replaced with private business. They will have a much better gauge of project spending, as well as increases in the future.

August 16, 2011 2:10:56 PM from
to Host (privately): Since I use NJ Transit, won't these toll increases affect my monthly transit fare? Since I haven't received a pay raise in over 3 years, any and all increases will prove to be onerous for me.

August 16, 2011 2:11:02 PM from
to Host (privately): would you like to talk about Benjy's calves?

August 16, 2011 2:11:09 PM from
to Host (privately): The Port authority wanting to raise fares beyond what is necessary is absolutely fiscally irresponsible. The jobs that it will create will be great but everyone has been tightening their belts because of this recession. Raising tolls will only deter individuals from going into New York City as much and will only impact the areas around path stations negatively due to the higher costs. Will the port authority lower rates after enough money has been raised to fund their projects? My feeling is that this will not happen and these rate hikes are unjust.

August 16, 2011 2:11:13 PM from
to Host (privately): you should thinking about the people out of work and trying to travel this will hurt them as well as yourselves and lose customers with this fare hikes . and especailly the handicapped who cannot get the senior fares which is unfare for the port aurtherity .

August 16, 2011 2:11:17 PM from
to Host (privately): You site the reasons you need this money but the bottom line is that now a days people just don't have this money to give. You need to decrease your costs and figure out other ways to raise the monies needed than from the overburdened public.

August 16, 2011 2:11:20 PM from Patrick Downes
to Host & Presenter: I support the toll increase for better, safer roads.

August 16, 2011 2:11:20 PM from
to Host (privately): Please I can't afford another raise. I work in Lake Success,NY and I live in Englewood. I am paying GW

Bridge, Throggs Neck and WhiteStone bridges everyday. My E-Z Pass bill is almost \$400 a month alone not including gas. This is getting out of control.

August 16, 2011 2:11:23 PM from
to Host (privately): My name is and I'm a resident of Teaneck, New Jersey. I am writing to support the Port Authority proposal. In these hard economic times it hurts to pay more for anything. However, we must invest in our county, to support our infrastructure, create jobs and restart our economy.

August 16, 2011 2:11:24 PM from;
to Host (privately): Just as some changes are being made through 2014 the same should go for the most immediate changes. This being brought to the public on such short notice where people are trying to budget their lives better. It makes the public furious. Especially putting such extreme changes in effect in the month to come which is only a couple of weeks away.

August 16, 2011 2:11:40 PM from
to Host (privately):
Creating jobs by forcing others out of their homes is not the way this should be done. I'm all for job creation, but find other ways to fulfill their proposal. Appeal to the Government for funds, lower the increase, anything other than slapping residents with this huge bill. I have work to be done on my house too, but it can't be done if the money is not in my account. Who can we run to begging for money when we overstretch our incomes? No one.
We are getting stuck with the bill for the new World Trade Center and post-9/11 security projects, which is ridiculous. Nine years of poor planning, and now 12 months of "rush to get it done, no matter the cost" is not the way to operate. Why should the people of NY/NJ pay for the effects of the attacks and poor planning afterwards, when it was against AMERICA?? Show us proof that the toll money is being used for projects that maintain the bridges and tunnels, and not for 9/11 security, etc. It's time so cut spending, tighten your

August 16, 2011 2:12:09 PM from
to Host (privately): Why when we haven't seen any increases in our job security and certainly not our wages, our we continually expected to pay more. I can respect all the areas that the money will go to - but we as middle class are all also struggling. And to lay the burden on those who rely on public transportation as mean for getting to work, and earning a paycheck to support their families, doesn't seem like the only answer.

August 16, 2011 2:12:11 PM from
to Host (privately): Dear Port Authority representatives,
As a young adult I am starting my life with my home's value down 35%, fears of losing my pension, a 401k that doesn't seem to be as steady as everyone says they are, threatened with losing social security.
These increases take away from the young middle class that need money for hope of ever raising a family or retiring at a normal age.
I commute over the Outer Bridge daily. Sometimes 7 days a week, these increases hurt the people who are starting out in life, like your kids who still have many years of work ahead of them. If in 2014 the tolls reach \$12 where will they be in 2025 when your kids and grand kids cross these bridges and tunnels?
The Port Authority should create a department that searches for funds being wasted.
I'm a young professional that commutes, what can be offered for people that commute daily other than \$60 a month increase. This is a \$720 a year increase on my back. What are you doing to help prevent these tolls from b

August 16, 2011 2:12:12 PM from
to Host (privately): The outlying areas of Manhattan rely on bridge and tunnel access for their livelihoods, and the companies in Manhattan rely on the qualified workers who live in the outlying areas. These hikes will have an impact not only on the individual who rely on bridges and tunnels to get to work, but also on their employers, who either won't have the funds to increase pay to cover the costs, or who will lose workers to the overly expensive commute. Consider the ripple effect of such a ridiculous toll hike.

August 16, 2011 2:12:17 PM from savario samarelli
to Host & Presenter: I work in New Jersey. My commute is longer than most people's daily commutes. It can be hard on my family when my day isn't interrupted by congestion, but on the days I'm hours late it's even worse. I won't mind paying more to cross the River, if I can where I am going faster.

August 16, 2011 2:12:23 PM from Cynthia Segura
to Host & Presenter: My name is Cynthia Segura. I live in New York City and travel all over the region for work. I support the Port Authority's toll increase because it will get our region moving faster and help me do my job better.

August 16, 2011 2:12:35 PM from
to Host (privately): why didnt transit prepare a proper budget for all ther necessary projects instead of waiting till there halway throught to try and dump the expense on the working people?

August 16, 2011 2:12:37 PM from
to Host (privately): People work hard for the money that they make. Property tax increasing fares increasing and just general living expenses increasing and the public always pays for the budgeting mistakes of these corporations.

August 16, 2011 2:12:40 PM from
to Host (privately): My name is and I am a resident of New York State. I am writing to support the Port Authority proposal. In these hard economic times, it hurts to pay more for anything. However, we must INVEST in our COUNTRY, support our infrastructure and create JOBS to restart our economy.

August 16, 2011 2:12:49 PM from
to Host (privately): being \$25 11 years from now? You're imposing every year a \$1 increase will that continue?
I don't understand your budget issues and will never claim too, but forcing your increases onto our backs isn't always the answer. Along with finding the money you need for your budget will not be easy but it is possible to do without raising tolls. I ask nolitley to reconsider your toll increases for the people who helped build these bridges and tunnels with their tolls.

Anytime

August 16, 2011 2:12:53 PM from
to Host (privately): It is not FAIR!

August 16, 2011 2:12:55 PM from
to Host (privately): hello

August 16, 2011 2:12:58 PM from
to Host (privately): Also - I do not work downtown nor do I intend to visit he WTC rebuilt site. So why should I pay for it's construction and cost over-runs?

August 16, 2011 2:12:59 PM from
to Host (privately): The end result of your action will be that you will see a decrease in people coming across bridges and tunnels and using the path. I personally will increase my efforts to find a job in NJ and until that time will talk to my employer about telecommuting 2-4 days a week similar to many of my coworkers. I am sure many of my fellow commuters will do the same.

August 16, 2011 2:13:01 PM from
to Host (privately): I have a question

August 16, 2011 2:13:02 PM from
to Host (privately): My son and many members of my extended family work in construction and have to cross into New Jersey several times a week, because there's not enough work if they only look in New York. I don't mind the increase if it's going to create more construction jobs and make the commute faster and more secure from Bayside, Queens.

August 16, 2011 2:13:06 PM from
to Host (privately): The reason why I moved to NJ (as so many others are doing) is because the PATH train monthly is at \$54, and brings me relatively close to where I need to go in Manhattan. If the fare increases to \$89, I might as well move back to NY. This will not only hurt PATH revenues, but also small business as well as revenues to the state and city of NJ. I believe in the long run, it will hurt the PATH, PANYNJ as well as city and state funding more, with a huge increase in a fare hike as proposed today.

August 16, 2011 2:13:08 PM from Thomas Atkins
to Host & Presenter: I live in NJ and support the toll increase.

August 16, 2011 2:13:10 PM from
to Host (privately): if half fare is allowed for handicapped on buses and trains in NJ/NY why not on the path trains . the handicapped will start not using the path trains and move to go to buses

August 16, 2011 2:13:18 PM from
to Host (privately): guess I am the only person here

August 16, 2011 2:13:32 PM from Miladin Ivkovic
to Host & Presenter: My son and many members of my extended family work in construction and have to cross into New Jersey several times a week, because there's not enough work if they only look in New York. I don't mind the increase if it's going to create more construction jobs and make the commute faster and more secure. Miladin from Bayside, Queens.

August 16, 2011 2:13:36 PM from
to Host (privately): Port Authority does not equal jobs. Port Authority equals jobs at the expense of commuters and residents. It's like "robbing Peter to pay Paul". We all know that doesn't work out very well. So why even consider it as an option?

August 16, 2011 2:13:59 PM from
to Host (privately): I love living in NJ and the easy commute to NY, but NY also constantly springs on fare hikes. Neither state is making it easy to live or work.

August 16, 2011 2:14:11 PM from
to Host (privately): In turn you will lose the money I pay to commute, the taxes I pay to work here. Not to mention the money I spend on buying items while I am here from lunch and dinner expenses to clothing and gifts.

August 16, 2011 2:14:12 PM from
to Host (privately): I am new to this area (since 2007) and since I have been here tolls from NJ to NY have already increased by 33% from \$6 to \$8. Given the financial climate and economic stagnation, to impose this newest 50% increase is a financial hardship to many including myself. I commute into NYC daily for work and even if I were to take the train or bus, fares are also likely to increase to accommodate the increased costs to those companies. Train fares have already gone up, subway fare has increased. At a certain point it will no longer make sense to go into NYC to work or shop. The broader implications to the NYC job market and retail market should also be considered when people will simply not travel into Manhattan because they cannot afford it any longer. I understand the need to pay for infrastructure but these are trying times and perhaps the plans should be scaled back to accommodate the economic reality of the consumers that will have to bear the brunt of these costs.

August 16, 2011 2:14:18 PM from
to Host (privately): I'm a person living in NJ and my family lives in New York. Including elderly parents. We often have to go visit them to make sure they are fine. We worry about them. This increase will affect many families. We cannot afford the trips back and forth at this rate. We beg you to reconsider raising these fares would be detrimental to our future. My husband works in Jersey City and his fare will also increase. What little increase we would have this year in our paychecks now go so quickly on raising of everything food, copays, gas, mortgages, school loans, clothes. What is the middle income family supposed to do at this rate? We are very upset and depressed. Don't do this now.

August 16, 2011 2:14:34 PM from
to Host (privately): While many may argue the toll hikes are drastic, I know their increase is necessary and only seems steep because of years of insufficiently rolled roadways. I hope the PA continues to make it clear to both the Governors and the public at large that the bridges and roadway and 9-11 buildings cost substantially more money than the states ever give. High tolls are a necessary evil of our system that subsidizes driving more than mass transit.

August 16, 2011 2:14:35 PM from
to Host (privately): I'm writing to support the port authority proposal. In these economic times it hurts to pay more for anything. However we must invest in our

country to support our infrastructure, create jobs and restart our economy.

thank you

August 16, 2011 2:14:41 PM from Sandra Adelino
to Host & Presenter: I want you to approve a toll increase for the Port Authority New York and New Jersey

August 16, 2011 2:14:46 PM from
to Host (privately): In conclusion, the Port Authority must find other ways to raise the money that it needs to continue its infrastructure upkeep. My belief is that due to the recession, more have used public transportation and technology has made the port authority's job easier and able to slash those jobs that it now wishes to bring back. Through more fiscal responsibility and not spending on a new Path station at world trade, we should be able to continue this. Extraneous spending and less oversight to the final projects will only make sure these projects go over their budget. Also, the meeting times are ridiculous for anyone to want to come to voice their opinion due to it being so close to people going to work, and coming home. If you want to explain in to the mothers and fathers who have pride in our nation but don't enjoy shelling out more money due to fiscal irresponsibility, I feel these meetings should be held on weekends as well as later in the evening when the public can truly come out to

August 16, 2011 2:14:48 PM from ngullen rivera
to All Panelists: I'm writing to support the port authority proposal. In these economic times it hurts to pay more for anything. However we must invest in our country to support our infrastructure, create jobs and restart our economy.

thank you

August 16, 2011 2:15:02 PM from Jessica Freedman
to Host & Presenter: My name is Jessica Freedman, and I am a teacher living in New York City. I support the Port Authority's toll increase because it will make the roads safer and the air cleaner for children living in our region.

August 16, 2011 2:15:15 PM from
to Host (privately): in in the Black car bussiness in NY city and we use the Tolls all the time. I gurantee if the tolls go up over a 1000 drivers will leave this bussiness and that will seriously affect this industry.

August 16, 2011 2:15:16 PM from
to Host (privately): voice their displeasure for these hikes.

August 16, 2011 2:15:18 PM from
to Host (privately): The PA needs to come up with others ways to increase efficiency, lower operational costs, and identify other sources of revenue, so that motorists are not forced to pay the Port Authority's way out of its financial hole.

August 16, 2011 2:15:32 PM from
to Host (privately): Raise money for private investors for your World Trade Center project

August 16, 2011 2:15:33 PM from
to Presenter (privately): While many may argue the toll hikes are drastic, I know their increase is necessary and only seems steep because of years of insufficiently rolled roadways. I hope the PA continues to make it clear to both the Governors and the public at large that the bridges and roadway and 9-11 buildings cost substantially more money than the states ever give. High tolls are a necessary evil of our system that subsidizes driving more than mass transit.

August 16, 2011 2:15:38 PM from
to Host (privately): I STRONGLY oppose these toll and train fare increases.

August 16, 2011 2:15:42 PM from
to Host (privately): from

August 16, 2011 2:15:44 PM from
to Host (privately): This organization MUST look within itself for ways to cut back before coming to residents and asking for more

August 16, 2011 2:15:45 PM from matt bunting
to Host & Presenter: I'm a father and I want bridges and tunnels to be safe. I believe in investment in infrastructure. My name is Matt Bunting and I'm from Brooklyn NY.

August 16, 2011 2:15:54 PM from
to Host (privately): The recession is hurting you, but your answer is to hurt the public, to resolve your loss where all suffering. My employer gives me small raises because of the recession.
I want to thank you for the opportunity to express my concerns and giving the public the opportunity to be heard, I hope you can realize the people just like yourselves suffer from these increases.
Good afternoon representatives of the Port Authority.

August 16, 2011 2:15:58 PM from Julianne Martin
to Host & Presenter: I live in NJ and often commute into NY. I support the toll increase to improve our roads.

August 16, 2011 2:16:00 PM from
to Host (privately): Why isn't the government bailing NY and NJ out of budgets that the public can not afford.

August 16, 2011 2:16:01 PM from
to Host (privately): Clearly, a massive renovation/replacement project needs to be undertaken. I am curious as to what happened to the funds that have been getting put aside out of every dollar collected for this massive undertaking. No major organization would neglect to be putting \$\$ away for such a "rainy day". Has this fund been depleted for routine repair rather than kept separate for replacement? The same customers that would have to foot this HUGE toll and fare increase, will most likely have to finance the Tappan Zee Bridge replacement as well. Nobody in this current economic environment can be asked to bear such a burden. I urge you to rethink your proposal. Thank You.

August 16, 2011 2:16:02 PM from
to Host (privately): ?

August 16, 2011 2:16:03 PM from
to Host (privately): I know your proposed # is meant to make me feel a sense of relief in the coming weeks when you cut the amount by some unknown percent but in my estimation, no increase at this time of economic uncertainty is acceptable and in ignoring the public's plea you are just another symptom of a United States that babies the wealthy at the expense of the lower and middle classes.

August 16, 2011 2:16:09 PM from
to Host (privately): This is INSANE!

August 16, 2011 2:16:22 PM from
to Host (privately): Also, after such a fare hike as this one, Perhaps PATH should increase night and weekend frequency. This just seems like a one way increase. The proposed job increase of 167,000 would probably only put the company to where it was at pre-recession. In short, there has to be more incentive for every day path users for an increase in fare as proposed.

August 16, 2011 2:16:40 PM from
to Host (privately): Thank you and have a good day!

August 16, 2011 2:16:52 PM from
to Host (privately): the public gains nothing from the world trade center project

August 16, 2011 2:17:11 PM from Shannon McCampbell

to Host & Presenter: My name is Shannon and I live in New York City. I support the Port Authority toll increase and PATH train fare increase because it will reduce congestion on our roads and encourage drivers to travel more efficiently.

August 16, 2011 2:17:13 PM from

to Host (privately): the public has only seen very significant toll hikes.

August 16, 2011 2:17:15 PM from Hector Gonzalez

to Host & Presenter: My name is Hector Gonzalez, and I live in Queens. I support the Port Authority's Capital Plan.

August 16, 2011 2:17:19 PM from

to Host (privately): the tunnels and bridges are all in horrible conditions the don't even keep them up,

August 16, 2011 2:17:20 PM from Ikonija Ivkovic

to Host & Presenter: Hi, my family is all in construction and they really struggle to find work. They never had to go to New Jersey before and now they commute over bridges and tunnels almost daily. If this increase will create more construction jobs and make the infrastructure safer and easier to use, my family is all for it. Ikonija Ivkovic from Queens.

August 16, 2011 2:17:22 PM from

to Host (privately): I would like to just state that despite how many jobs that this proposition will "create" it is still affecting the people that commute who have to commute in order to get by in the first place. I moved to New Jersey so I can afford the cost of living. Next year I will most likely have to move again and these so called "jobs" will not exist anywhere near where I'll have to move

August 16, 2011 2:17:29 PM from Jonathan Batista

to Host & Presenter: I understand that nobody wants to pay higher tolls. But, the increases don't seem too bad to me compared to what we'd be getting, jobs and safe bridges and tunnels seems like a good idea to me

August 16, 2011 2:17:33 PM from

to Host (privately): Being a commuter myself, I see more individuals using Path trains daily, at all times of the day and to say that this has not helped the Port Authority make a profit, is almost ludicrous to me. If any business was run the same way the port authority has been run, it would not longer be in existence.

August 16, 2011 2:17:49 PM from

to Host (privately): I disagree with this fair increase. You can't just increase tolls because of the recession and decrease in revenue, you guys should manage through that without having to subject drivers to additional tolls. We are all victims of the downturn but everyone is making sacrifices so the PA should do the same. Raising tolls is the easy way out. Also using 9-11 as a reason for added cost is a little bit outdated. After ten years you would think that the agency would have come up with a better plan manage this cost. Furthermore I thought the federal government provided assistance for high target areas like NYC. If the Fed assistance is not enough the PANYNJ should do better to manage cost rather than raising tolls. Finally listing security barriers as one of the possible reasons for this fair increase...really, security barriers? I think the agency should focus on managing cost and prioritizing projects in this recession instead of raising tolls on commuters that are struggling to make ends meet.

August 16, 2011 2:18:14 PM from

to Host (privately): This increase is of particular concern to the limousine and livery industry, which may or may not use E-ZPass. This industry has already experienced a state sales tax in both NJ and NY, is dealing with chronically high fuel prices, and stringent NYSDOT and USDOT surprise inspections that have caused good, legal operators to lose runs when their vehicle is delayed in an audit. In this low-profit-margin industry, there is only so much that can be passed on to the client. The limousine industry is inherently a green industry due to the number of passengers per vehicle, serving to take more single drivers off the road. There is serious concern among the smaller operators, which comprises the majority of the industry, that they will not be able to sustain their businesses as cost increases come from every angle--except when it comes to their own rates. This could lead to further layoffs and business closures in an already fragile industry.

August 16, 2011 2:18:18 PM from Kristen Temple

to Host & Presenter: I live in NJ and am a commuter. I would love nothing more than an efficient commute. Many hours are spent sitting in traffic and if these improvements can help alleviate that, then I'm all for it. I support the toll increase.

August 16, 2011 2:18:23 PM from
to Host (privately): Thank you for your time in reading my comments and response to your webex regarding the Toll & fare hike proposal.

August 16, 2011 2:18:36 PM from
to Host (privately): what's next? Are you going to raise the Class 1 vehicle tolls to \$25 or even \$50 per trip into NYC?

August 16, 2011 2:18:41 PM from
to Host (privately): they have to find another way to fund the new projects not on my sweat so they can fund

August 16, 2011 2:18:46 PM from
to Host (privately): It appears that everyone is jumping on this bandwagon of "recession" with times being so bad I'm sure more than half of these projects/updates can be postponed. We are being hit from every direction. When does it stop????????? I live in Staten Island am on the SI resident plan and this is ludicrous as we have absolutely no other way off the island than via bridges. I don't even want to touch the WTC you've had 10 years to build and budget... it's now when you realize you're under budgeted? w/regards to the path I could see a lot of ppl leaving NJ to move into NYC if they work in NYC here perhaps here an unlimited metrocard needs to be looked at as a solution. the hike being suggested in every aspect are way too high!!!

August 16, 2011 2:18:48 PM from
to Host (privately): I am against the proposed toll hike. It will place a great financial burden upon me.

August 16, 2011 2:19:02 PM from
to Host (privately): Clearly the PA of NY/NJ is faced with having to address major infrastructure improvements & post 9/11 security concerns. Though these proposed toll hikes will help to remedy the major finance concerns for these ongoing projects, the manner in which they are being levied against the general public seems horrific. A 100-150% increase in such a short time, and in such a serious economic recession, seems ill timed and poorly planned. Though I am much in favor of many of these improvements, because of their long term effects and the many construction jobs that they would bring, I for one would appreciate a more staggered schedule of toll increases, so as not to burden the already desperate commuter and general public. Thank you.

August 16, 2011 2:19:09 PM from
to Host (privately): There are many people that are still unemployed. What about them?

August 16, 2011 2:19:33 PM from
to Host (privately): fill their pockets

August 16, 2011 2:19:36 PM from Radames Acevedo
to Host & Presenter: My name is Radames Acevedo and I am from Kearney, NJ. In order to grow and maintain our areas infrastructure, we must find the funding for large scale capital investment. This funding will also provide jobs at a time when so many of my friends and neighbors are out of work, in some cases for years. Increasing tolls is a responsible way to raise the necessary revenues needed to repair, replace, and maintain our infrastructure.

August 16, 2011 2:19:48 PM from
to Host (privately): They will bear the added burden of paying for toll hikes for each trip into NYC

August 16, 2011 2:20:02 PM from
to Host (privately): My name is [redacted] I am a Brooklyn resident who commutes across two rivers to New Jersey, every day. Our infrastructure is crumbling and will continue to deteriorate if we do not find a responsible way of raising revenue. Increasing tolls, while not a popular solution, makes sense and benefits everyone in the long run.

August 16, 2011 2:20:13 PM from
to Host (privately): how do we hear other comments during webcast?

August 16, 2011 2:20:19 PM from
to Host (privately): The port authority is just like the MTA

August 16, 2011 2:20:38 PM from
to Host (privately): This is pure hogwash!!!!!!

August 16, 2011 2:20:38 PM from Kathleen Vecchione
to Host & Presenter: My name is Kathy. As the wife of a construction the worker and the mother of NYC commuter, I approve this plan. The jobs created by capital improvement would boost the economy and the funding for safety improvements would help me rest easier.

August 16, 2011 2:21:16 PM from Hector Fuentes
to All Panelists: My name is Hector Fuentes. I live in New Jersey and often commute to New York City. I strongly support the NY & NJ Port Authority Plan. As a resident of NJ, I feel that projects that will improve quality of life by cutting back on congestion and improving air quality are very important.

August 16, 2011 2:21:58 PM from
(privately): hi

August 16, 2011 2:22:06 PM from
to Host (privately): and after they finish there projects they'll continue to fill there pockets and waste money when the good times roll around while we break our backs!!

August 16, 2011 2:22:49 PM from
to Host (privately): It's insulting to all that perished in the attacks, that unions and other special interest groups are rallying behind the PA to increase profits for the re-building. They didn't die for job creation. It is disgusting to see the hundreds of union member support this effort. They must not commute daily to/from NYC over the PA's crossings. Maybe they travel through the MTA's bridges/tunnels, so this increase is a non-issue for them. Why doesn't the PA poll these proponents and determine whether this will effect them. Most likely, they support the plan because they are not residents of NJ, and are not forced to pay egregious fares when crossing into NY.

August 16, 2011 2:22:51 PM from Theodore Vecchione, Sr.
to Host & Presenter: My name is Theodore, and I live in East Hanover, NJ. As a NJ construction worker, I encourage the Board to pass this plan. The 185,000 jobs created will help put New Jersey residents to work.

August 16, 2011 2:23:17 PM from
to Host (privately): My name is Ramon Woodcock and I am a resident of New York and a commuter who supports the Port Authority's plan. Commuters using Port Authority crossings deal with congestion and delays on a daily basis. A more efficient transportation system will provide relief for these problems. Additional tolls will allow the Port Authority to fund capital projects and create jobs in a time when we need it most. I would much rather spend time with family members, than sitting in traffic. I fully support the proposed toll increase.

August 16, 2011 2:23:28 PM from Ramon Woodcock
to Host & Presenter: My name is Ramon Woodcock and I am a resident of New York and a commuter who supports the Port Authority's plan. Commuters using Port Authority crossings deal with congestion and delays on a daily basis. A more efficient transportation system will provide relief for these problems. Additional tolls will allow the Port Authority to fund capital projects and create jobs in a time when we need it most. I would much rather spend time with family members, than sitting in traffic. I fully support the proposed toll increase.

August 16, 2011 2:23:43 PM from
to Host (privately): I am a resident of NY and commuter, named Stanislaw Kosiec. Raising capital for improvements to our infrastructure is necessary and the toll increase proposed by the Port Authority is the most effective way to reach this goal. Job creation is important to our area's vitality and investing money into projects is a good way to stimulate the economy.

August 16, 2011 2:24:04 PM from May Lam
to All Panelists: I am speaking on behalf of my fellow commuters when I express our deep opposition of all the proposed fare

hikes. It has been a rough ride through this recession and those of us who were able to keep our jobs in ny find relief in affordable nj housing and transportation, which is most necessary. If the drastic hikes go into effect, many if not, most of us will be faced with the challenges of continuing to reside in nj as well as keep our ny employment. We will be forced to relocate during an already volatile time. We are already reluctant to relocate and the idea of driving out many support systems to our local economies is just a domino effect of deterioration. I am completely 100% against these unfair and unjust fare hikes.

August 16, 2011 2:24:36 PM from

to Host (privately): The proposed fare hikes: although i do believe that job creation is necessary i feel that the amount that is being asked for aside from being unprecedented is too high. In these economic times, asking people to give up more of their money (with proposed increases of 50%) places even more burden on workers who are trying to get to work everyday. I feel that other possibilities for revenue should be also be explored. I also feel that the planning of these projects should have been done with enough foresight so that any raises in toll fare could have been planned in such a way as to not burden the commuters so heavily. The fact that these projects need to be done has not come as a surprise all of a sudden. I believe that there should be a prioritizing of the projects, while creating new means of revenue and easing the public with gentler hikes.

August 16, 2011 2:25:22 PM from

to Host (privately): Ultimiteley, the PA ~~needs~~ to come up with another way to fill the budget gap; or the rest of us will come knocking on their door when we "need" projects done at our homes. Technically, these "needed projects" would also create job growth, so its a win/win situation as well. It is inherently unethical and illogical for the PA to increase tolls by such a large amount at this time.

August 16, 2011 2:25:28 PM from

to Host (privately): I believe that a toll increase of those proportions our outrageous. Currently NY has the highest toll rolls in the nation. We are currently experiencing a second recession, and you want to put this on the backs of the people that keep you employeed, get the most out of them correct. You are asking for a 57-88% increase. Does my pay get increased by 57-88% because I had a child and I need more money. or because one of my family members are ill and need special care that I can not afford. Even to raise the tolls by a dollar would be one too much. This is total shocking that I wont be able to afford the already astronomical cost to travel to work. I dont know what I will do. And I know this probably wont do anything, you believe you are doing the right thing, but I am telling you this isnt fair. Its a slap in the face to the commuters who use your roadways, bridges and trains to ask for an increase of 57-88%

August 16, 2011 2:26:14 PM from Richard Weiss

to Host & Presenter: My name is Richard Weiss and I am a resident of NY and a commuter. Without additional funding, the Port Authority will be unable to improve and maintain its river crossings and the safety of our bridges and tunnels will suffer as a result. If we forego the necessary improvements the costs of repairing them at a later date could be substantial. I think that others would agree that safety is more important than a few more dollars a day. I am for the proposed toll increase.

August 16, 2011 2:26:14 PM from

(privately): ALL PATH STATIONS SHOULD MEEET ADA STANDARDS, ONLY TWO HAVE ELEVATORS. THE ROADS AT THE HOLLAND AND LINCOLN TUNNELS NEED TO BE FIXED THEY HAVE BEEN IN REAL BAD CONDITION FOR THE PAST 5 YEARS. THE LIGHTS AT NEWARK PENN STATION NEED TO BE REPLACED AT NIGHT IT IS VERY DARK ON THE PLATFORM AND I NEVER SEE ANY PORT AUTHORITY SECURITY.

August 16, 2011 2:26:41 PM from ERNEST DOCS

to All Panelists: ALL PATH STATIONS SHOULD MEEET ADA STANDARDS, ONLY TWO HAVE ELEVATORS. THE ROADS AT THE HOLLAND AND LINCOLN TUNNELS NEED TO BE FIXED THEY HAVE BEEN IN REAL BAD CONDITION FOR THE PAST 5 YEARS. THE LIGHTS AT NEWARK PENN STATION NEED TO BE REPLACED AT NIGHT IT IS VERY DARK ON THE PLATFORM AND I NEVER SEE ANY PORT AUTHORITY SECURITY.

August 16, 2011 2:26:47 PM from Holland Raulston

to Host & Presenter: I work in New Jersey and travel around the New Jersey and New York City area for work. I strongly support the NY & NJ Port Authority Plan. I feel investments in our infrastructure make our region more competitive and improve our ability to attract and retain business. I feel businesses will see the advantages of a safer, more modern and efficient transportation system and the citizens of our area will benefit with employment opportunities, and safer road conditions will provide peace of mind.

August 16, 2011 2:26:51 PM from
(privately): Statement by Joseph C. Curto, President of the New York Shipping Association, Inc., regarding proposed Port Authority of New York and New Jersey toll hikes
"We fully understand the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey's need to raise revenue which will help pay for critical infrastructure improvements, such as the Bayonne Bridge. We strongly support them in that effort particularly because of the job inducing aspects of the capital improvements and the resulting substantial economic benefits to the region."

August 16, 2011 2:26:57 PM from Jennifer Weil
to All Panelists: Any fare hike at this time would be disastrous due to the current state of our economy. The proposal is an obvious political strategy move of some sort, it matters not what. As a result, the time and energy used to make the proposal is a gigantic waste. The proposal deserves nothing more than public ire and anger directed squarely at the Port Authority. The public deserves a full accounting of all funds that flow into and out of the Port Authority. For example, what is the source of the funds for the proposed 18-story office building in Hoboken, NJ? Any sane and reasonable person would divert funds from that office building project to where ever they are supposedly needed for this proposed fare hike. Get real, people. Stop lying to us, stop playing political games.

August 16, 2011 2:27:33 PM from
to Host (privately): I believe the proposal for Path increases from 1.75 to 2.50 and \$2 plus increases on crossings is not even an acceptable starting place for negotiations. I understand that the organization is not funded by tax dollars but any other organization would be forced to cut more aggressively to balance the budget. You mention that you've cut 11% of positions- many other businesses have cut 20% or even more. No police budget has been cut- I recommend that you do cut the police budget and force them to identify waste. I see several policemen standing and talking in the JSQ mall while homeless people fight near the parking garage. If the police aren't acting to stop the crime, I recommend cutting the hours. Cut the waste, not the benefits. Identify an owner of this in the police force. I also see several security vehicles parked aimlessly in the same area- security employees sitting in the vehicles talking on their phones.

August 16, 2011 2:27:43 PM from
to Host (privately): This looks like waste to me. It sounds like the private security company is getting paid too much if they can afford to have vehicles sitting around in a drop off area and employees talking on the phone in uniform. Cutting their funding would force them to attack waste. Sell some of the vehicles if they aren't using them.

August 16, 2011 2:27:54 PM from
to Host (privately): If you must increase rates on the path/crossings I recommend that they be tied to a cost of living percentage. I think you'll find that this would be a much more publicly acceptable amount. You can also benchmark other services that will allow you to set a fair increase. My sense is this increase would be quite small. The NYC subway card is only pennies more and offers the benefit of visits to 5 boroughs and hundreds of lines and stations- how do they do it for the low fare they offer. The Path card seems fairly priced at the moment. There are no tolls on several Brooklyn crossings (Williamsburg etc) if these are not under PA control how are they funded, isn't some of that funding available for the Holland, Lincoln etc. Look for new sources of revenue through state subsidies, airline taxes etc. The financial future of northern NJ depends on the Path and crossings so discuss possible funding with the state of NJ.

August 16, 2011 2:28:01 PM from
to Host (privately): I hope you can find a way to hold off price increases- all other businesses find a way to make ends meet in a down economy I don't see why the PA can't do that as well.

August 16, 2011 2:28:29 PM from
(privately): Am I really the only person here?

August 16, 2011 2:28:46 PM from stephanie atkins
to Host & Presenter: I support the toll increase. My name is Stephanie Atkins and I am from New Brunswick, NJ. New Jersey has one of the highest unemployment rates in the country and implementing a higher toll will promote job creation and overall economic development in a time when we need it most.

August 16, 2011 2:28:46 PM from stephanie atkins
to Host & Presenter: My name is Stephanie Atkins and I am from New Brunswick, NJ. New Jersey has one of the highest

unemployment rates in the country and implementing a higher toll will promote job creation and overall economic development in a time when we need it most. I support the Port Authority's toll increase.

August 16, 2011 2:29:08 PM from ERNEST DOCS
to All Panelists: I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO KNOW WHO CALLED ALL THE UNION GUYS TO FILL UP THE MEETINGS THIS MORNING

August 16, 2011 2:30:06 PM from Ted Vecchione, Jr.
to Host & Presenter: I am Ted Vecchione. I am a New Jersey resident and I support this plan. The Port Authority's bottom line has been double hit up the recession and the 9/11 terrorist attack. Transit users need to man up and pay our fair share.

August 16, 2011 2:30:40 PM from Jaime Machado
to Host & Presenter: Saludos. Me llamo Jamie Machado. I am a New Jersey resident that often crosses the Hudson River for work. I strongly support the NY & NJ Port Authority Plan. I support raising of the Bayonne Bridge as a resident I feel the need and importance of this project. The clearance alone will allow traffic to run smoother. The congestion and air pollution from the trucks is intolerable. I feel that the improvements to this project will enhance motorists, residents & small businesses within the area.

August 16, 2011 2:31:01 PM from
to Host (privately): Eu Apoio o Increase de Porto Authority...I support the toll increase

August 16, 2011 2:31:05 PM from
to Host (privately): a 50% increase in tolls at a time when many local families, are trying to cut all costs to maintain or survive is unheard of. While understanding that some of these projects may be necessary, the PA, like all other organizations, needs to take a hard look at what projects are truly necessary. In addition, perhaps limit any increase to out of region visitors.

August 16, 2011 2:31:12 PM from Matt Fretz
to Host & Presenter: I guess my only real comment is that the sudden nature of implementation will impact those who have to adjust their transit checks, and whether or not they will be able to implement the change by Sept. 1 or not. Some folks definitely won't, as it can take a couple of payrolls for a change to hit.

August 16, 2011 2:31:17 PM from
to Host (privately): I can not afford this increase .It will restrict my visits to my family and hospital appointment that I have once a week>

August 16, 2011 2:32:09 PM from Kathryn Vecchione
to Host & Presenter: My name is Kathryn, and I support this plan. As a recent college graduate I was hesitant to look for employment in the City because of rush hour congestions and the long commute. I would be willing to pay more to get to the City if getting there was more efficient.

August 16, 2011 2:33:30 PM from
to Host (privately): I work in New Jersey and have been a commuter for twenty year and experienced the worst traffic and road conditions. The Port Authority's proactive plan is much needed. We need to improve our transit system now, before something like the Midwest bridge collapse happens in our backyard

August 16, 2011 2:33:36 PM from
to Host (privately): My name is work in New Jersey and I often commute to New York City for work. Nobody likes higher tolls, but without them, important infrastructure projects to improve how we get around will come to a sudden stop. This toll hike is needed to raise funds that will allow work to continue on vital projects that aim to make New York & New Jersey more competitive.

August 16, 2011 2:33:49 PM from
(privately): My name is I work in New Jersey and I often commute to New York City for work. Nobody likes higher tolls, but without them, important infrastructure projects to improve how we get around will come to a sudden stop. This toll hike is needed to raise funds that will allow work to continue on vital projects that aim to make New York & New Jersey more competitive.

August 16, 2011 2:33:54 PM from Biljana Ostojic
to Host & Presenter: To Whom It May Concern, My name is Biljana and I live in Queens. My husband works in construction and in this economy he goes a long way to find. The toll increase would leave our wallets lighter but if it in turn creates more work in construction, we are all for it. It takes him long enough to get home from New Jersey now, and I'd rather see an increase in tolls than an increase in his time in traffic, away from home. Thanks. Biljana Ostojic from Queens.

August 16, 2011 2:34:23 PM from
to Host (privately): In our current economic climate how can the Port Authority ask for increase of this magnitude. In the meantime families are struggling and cutting back, I do think that the Port Authority should do the same. Increase may be necessary, but this is not the right time or the right amount.

August 16, 2011 2:34:35 PM from
to Host (privately): Hello

August 16, 2011 2:35:18 PM from Greg Mocker
to Host & Presenter: Hello

August 16, 2011 2:36:04 PM from
to Host (privately): This increase is OUTRAGEOUS! Tolls are already ridiculous. NY and NJ are not for the rich only - working class people need to be able to go to work and visit their families.

August 16, 2011 2:36:08 PM from John Dougherty
to Host & Presenter: My name is John Dougherty, and I live in Queens. I support the toll increase to fund the Port Authority's Capital Plan because our infrastructure needs maintenance.

August 16, 2011 2:36:15 PM from
(privately): My name is and I live in Queens. I support the toll increase to fund the Port Authority's Capital Plan because our infrastructure needs maintenance.

August 16, 2011 2:36:28 PM from
to Host (privately): The proposed hike is entirely too much. You are increasing the fare by 50%. If property owners are only allowed to increase rent by standard ok

August 16, 2011 2:36:40 PM from Tommy orlando
to Host & Presenter: My name is Tommy and I am from Staten Island. I strongly support the NY & NJ Port Authority Plan. Our economy is suffering and the jobs and economic efficiency generated through this capital plan would bring a much needed relief, without imposing additional burdens on tax payers.

August 16, 2011 2:37:03 PM from Matt Fretz
to Host & Presenter: This would/could cause some level of chaos at the fare zones come the first of the month as people won't have enough on their cards, etc.

August 16, 2011 2:37:08 PM from Howard Cohen
to All Panelists: News reports suggested this morning that Unions were strongly in favor of crippling toll hikes as a means of providing themselves with jobs. I would submit that it is not the mission of the Port Authority to provide labor unions with work, particularly at the expense of the public the Authority is supposedly trying to serve.

August 16, 2011 2:37:09 PM from
to Host (privately): I am a 30 year old lifelong Bergen County resident who will begin an accelerated BSN RN program as of August 25, 2011 at Concordia College NY. The program is a full time commitment and I will not be able to work for the next 15 months. I will be on a fixed income based upon loans taken out to pay for school. As a commuter, I will be crossing the George Washington Bridge everyday (including weekends) during peak hours and have allotted funds based on the current toll charges.

I am taking on a career in healthcare in order to help people in need as well as make a comfortable living for my family. Living without being able to work will be difficult enough without an increase in tolls. The proposed increase will make it virtually impossible for me to continue my studies. I understand the need to support infrastructure, but it is unfair to charge a person who is not commuting to work, but rather commuting to attend school. Please do not raise the tolls and destroy my future.

August 16, 2011 2:37:12 PM from
to Host (privately): When is the rehabilitation of the Harrison PATH station starting?? There have been signs advertising it but no work has been done. Why would I pay more for the PATH train when you haven't even done what you proposed before the increase??

August 16, 2011 2:37:35 PM from
to Host (privately): The proposed hike is unbelievably high for crossings to NYC. We as commuters are already paying high property taxes, tolls on our roads and bridges. If this passes, I am sure that there will be a mass exodus.

August 16, 2011 2:37:44 PM from
to Host (privately): The toll hike should be gradual to account for inflation. You shouldn't make such a massive hike.

August 16, 2011 2:38:04 PM from eric littman
to All Panelists: When is the rehabilitation of the Harrison PATH station starting?? There have been signs advertising it but no work has been done. Why would I pay more for the PATH train when you haven't even done what you proposed before the increase??

August 16, 2011 2:38:16 PM from Justin Acevedo
to All Panelists: I am a 30 year old lifelong Bergen County resident who will begin an accelerated BSN RN program as of Aug 25, 2011 at Concordia College NY. The program is a full time commitment and I will not be able to work for the next 15 months. I will be on a fixed income based upon loans taken out to pay for school. As a commuter, I will be crossing the George Washington Bridge everyday (including weekends) during peak hours and have allotted funds based on the current toll charges. I am taking on a career in healthcare in order to help people in need as well as make a comfortable living for my family. Living without being able to work will be difficult enough without an increase in tolls. The proposed increase will make it virtually impossible for me to continue my studies. I understand the need to support infrastructure, but it is unfair to charge a person who is not commuting to work, but rather commuting to attend school. Please do not raise the tolls and destroy my future.

August 16, 2011 2:38:21 PM from Maureen McDonald
to Host & Presenter: I am Maureen McDonald, and I am from East Hanover, NJ. I support this plan because I support safe and efficient transportation. Paying more per use is not fun, but it is fair. I also appreciate that tolls are structured to favor more environmentally efficient toll payments.

August 16, 2011 2:39:40 PM from
to Host (privately): I don't know what to say other than these toll and fare hikes are just so outrageous. We've heard from all these union members that say this will give them a job, but why should commuters pay for that? I can barely get by with what I'm making now, how can you expect me to subsidize the WTC?

August 16, 2011 2:40:32 PM from vinnie stiso
to Host & Presenter: I commute from Bayonne, NJ all over the region. When I'm driving to work I can't help but notice that our infrastructure is in terrible condition. I find it embarrassing that we live in one of the largest metropolitan areas in the world, yet our infrastructure looks like it hasn't been improved since its inception. I support the Port Authority's proposed toll increase, not only because it is practical for the economy but because we deserve bridges and tunnels that makes us proud.
Vinnie

August 16, 2011 2:41:02 PM from Rick Pullen
to Host & Presenter: My name is Rick Pullen and I am from New Jersey. I support the Port Authority's toll increase proposal. Our area is major hub of the Northeast and not having a properly maintained and updated transportation system could be detrimental to both commerce and our economy.

August 16, 2011 2:41:20 PM from Dorothy McDonald

to Host & Presenter: My name is Dorothy and I am a resident of East Hanover, NJ. I wanted to voice my support of the Port Authorities plans to improve the transit system. For many years my husband was a truck driver. His hours were long and I often worried about his safety on the road. I believe we owe it to the men and women keeping our country supplied with goods to upgrade our bridges and tunnels.

August 16, 2011 2:41:25 PM from

to Host (privately): My name is I live in Haskell New Jersey and am a frequent commuter to NYC. This plan will shorten my commute, which is why I support it.

August 16, 2011 2:41:32 PM from John Mancini

to Host & Presenter: My name is John Mancini. I live in New Jersey and am a frequent commuter to NYC. This plan will shorten my commute, which is why I support it.

August 16, 2011 2:41:58 PM from

to Presenter (privately): I am a 30 year old lifelong Bergen County resident who will begin an accelerated BSN RN program as of Aug 25, 2011 at Concordia College NY. The program is a full time commitment and I will not be able to work for the next 15 months. I will be on a fixed income based upon loans taken out to pay for school. As a commuter, I will be crossing the George Washington Bridge everyday (including weekends) during peak hours and have allotted funds based on the current toll charges. I am taking on a career in healthcare in order to help people in need as well as make a comfortable living for my family. Living without being able to work will be difficult enough without an increase in tolls. The proposed increase will make it virtually impossible for me to continue my studies. I understand the need to support infrastructure, but it is unfair to charge a person who is not commuting to work, but rather commuting to attend school. Please do not raise the tolls and destroy my future.

August 16, 2011 2:42:05 PM from

(privately): I am a 30 year old lifelong Bergen County resident who will begin an accelerated BSN RN program as of Aug 25, 2011 at Concordia College NY. The program is a full time commitment and I will not be able to work for the next 15 months. I will be on a fixed income based upon loans taken out to pay for school. As a commuter, I will be crossing the George Washington Bridge everyday (including weekends) during peak hours and have allotted funds based on the current toll charges. I am taking on a career in healthcare in order to help people in need as well as make a comfortable living for my family. Living without being able to work will be difficult enough without an increase in tolls. The proposed increase will make it virtually impossible for me to continue my studies. I understand the need to support infrastructure, but it is unfair to charge a person who is not commuting to work, but rather commuting to attend school. Please do not raise the tolls and destroy my future.

August 16, 2011 2:42:49 PM from

to Host (privately): My name is and I live in the Bronx. I am writing to express my support for the Port Authority's Capital Plan.

August 16, 2011 2:43:35 PM from John Wund

to Host & Presenter: I am John Wund and live in Paramus, NJ. I strongly support the NY & NJ Port Authority Plan. As a resident of New Jersey, we know firsthand how important it is to strengthen our transportation infrastructure. Projects like the raising of the Bayonne Bridge and rehabilitation of the PATH system are absolutely essential for continued economic development.

August 16, 2011 2:43:44 PM from

(privately): I am and live in Paramus, NJ. I strongly support the NY & NJ Port Authority Plan. As a resident of New Jersey, we know firsthand how important it is to strengthen our transportation infrastructure. Projects like the raising of the Bayonne Bridge and rehabilitation of the PATH system are absolutely essential for continued economic development.

August 16, 2011 2:44:33 PM from
to Host (privately): This is from Newark, NJ. I strongly support the NY & NJ Port Authority Plan. We need to increase tolls if we want to receive goods from around the world, maintain our tunnels and bridges, increase capacity at our airports, and repair our road and transit system.

August 16, 2011 2:44:36 PM from Matthew McHenry
to Host & Presenter: My name is Matthew McHenry. As a lifelong New Jersey resident I want to reinvest into our state to make certain it remains the best place in the world to live. Efficient road systems will ensure a better quality of life for my friends, family and self as well as keeps our region economically competitive. I support this plan.

August 16, 2011 2:46:10 PM from Jose castillo
to Host & Presenter: My name is Jose Castillo and I am from the Bronx. Daily, I travel through New York City and New Jersey for work. I strongly support the NY & NJ Port Authority Plan and believe the Port Authority is making a difficult and intelligent decision. On a daily basis I deal with the toll congestion, air pollution & delays. We critically need the repairs. This would benefit all commuters.

August 16, 2011 2:46:18 PM from
(privately): My name is and I am from the Bronx. Daily, I travel through New York City and New Jersey for work. I strongly support the NY & NJ Port Authority Plan and believe the Port Authority is making a difficult and intelligent decision. On a daily basis I deal with the toll congestion, air pollution & delays. We critically need the repairs. This would benefit all commuters.

August 16, 2011 2:47:15 PM from Antonio Ayala
to Host & Presenter: My name is Antonio Ayala, and I live in Bayshore, NY. I support the Port Authority's Capital Plan to invest in our region's roads.

August 16, 2011 2:47:22 PM from Joe Federico
to All Panelists: My name is Joe Federico. I am a resident of Ridgewood, NJ. I support the Port Authority's plan because it will stimulate our economy by creating jobs and making capital improvements that will increase the capacity and efficiency of regional commerce. I love my state, but without the economic vitality of the region I would not be able to continue pursuing my career as an independent, freelance author.

August 16, 2011 2:47:23 PM from Ada Torres
to All Panelists: As a former resident of Hudson county for many years, I am here to express my opposition to Port Authority of New York & New Jersey's plan to increase fares on PATH trains and on bridges and tolls for many reasons: Many of us from the tri-state area are struggling to make ends meet while living on a fixed income and cannot afford these increases, especially at a high unemployment rate. Due to increases in fares within the last five years by NJ Transit and the MTA, we are paying more than our share in exchange for cuts in services. The rates that we are paying are the highest in the nation. I understand Port Authority's need to improve the infrastructure on bridges, the World Trade Center, and PATH rail, asking taxpayers to support exorbitant increase during an economic downturn is downright unconscionable and against public policy. For these reasons, I am against the increase.

August 16, 2011 2:49:12 PM from Baraka Cummings
to Host & Presenter: My name is Baraka Cummings, Sr., and I live in Hempstead, NY. I support the Port Authority's Capital Plan because it will put people to work.

August 16, 2011 2:49:15 PM from Jose Chicas
to Host & Presenter: My name is Jose Chicas. I live in Jersey City and commute to New York City every day. I strongly support the NY & NJ Port Authority Plan. As a resident of New Jersey I am pleased to see that qualified energy-efficient vehicles using Green Pass will see no toll increase during off-peak hours, while car poolers also get to keep their peak-hour discount.

August 16, 2011 2:49:17 PM from
to Host (privately): My name is and I am a resident of New York and a commuter. I strongly support the NY & NJ Port Authority Plan. The Port Authority plan calls for an extensive range of construction projects, including improvement in the areas bridges, tunnels and roadways. The only way these projects can only be completed is if the Port Authority has the proper resources and funding. Nobody likes a toll or fare hike, but in this tough economic time it's the precise thing to do.

August 16, 2011 2:49:39 PM from Caitlin Byrne
to All Panelists: My name is Caitlin, and I live in Florham Park, NJ and commute every day to my job in a women's shelter. I am on a limited income, but I know that paying higher tolls is the socially responsible choice. Easing traffic congestion is an important factor in improving air quality. I feel personally invested in this effort because many of the children I work with suffer from asthma. That is why I support this plan.

August 16, 2011 2:51:26 PM from Julie Irving
to All Panelists: I am Julie Irving, and for the past year I have lived in New York City, working full time and studying for my masters part time at NYU. I love this City, but I hate the traffic. I thought traffic was bad in Washington, DC, but then I got a job in Manhattan that required me to drive through North Jersey every day. I would pay more to ease congestion. I support this plan.

August 16, 2011 2:51:45 PM from
to Host (privately): The proposed increase is outrageous. I'm sure this increase as proposed will be the straw that breaks the camels back for many commuters like myself. Considering the amount of money that the PA currently takes in daily, one would have to believe that the funds are being squandered or there is massive waste and overspending on things not directly related to the actual upkeep of the bridges, tunnels and other facilities! This is just insane!!!!

August 16, 2011 2:53:03 PM from Port Authority of New York & New Jersey
to All Attendees: Thank you to everyone that participated. This online hearing will end after 3:00 p.m. If you would like to leave more comments after 3:00 p.m., please use the comment form on the Port Authority web site, which will remain open until 7:00 p.m. today.

August 16, 2011 2:54:22 PM from
to Host (privately): Raising the tolls and fares will put more a burden on people who are trying to make ends meet. What about price of the monthly bus fares? once the tolls increase, the bus companies will increase their monthly fees to compensate

August 16, 2011 2:55:46 PM from Patty Carpenter
to Host & Presenter: After the recent Midwest Bridge collapse I worry about my children's safety, who both live in New York and travel frequently to New Jersey for work and school. I support the toll increase in the hopes that the bridges will be safely maintained.

August 16, 2011 2:55:54 PM from
to Host (privately): Did any one participate yet? I've seen nothing on my screen except your comments and my off line message to you.

August 16, 2011 2:56:07 PM from Bob Klein
to Host & Presenter: I support the port authority toll & fare increase

August 16, 2011 2:56:34 PM from
to Host (privately): With everything going up, there is no way the general public will be able to "spend" (something economists want consumers to do to spark up the economy). If the vast majority of people have to cut and make ends meet, then the Port Authority can do the same as well. Raising the taxes will only enable the executives to have higher raises and bonuses.

August 16, 2011 2:57:12 PM from Claudia Fernandez
to Host & Presenter: Raising the tolls and fares will put more a burden on people who are trying to make ends meet. What about price of the monthly bus fares? once the tolls increase, the bus companies will increase their monthly fees to compensate

August 16, 2011 2:57:21 PM from Claudia Fernandez

to Host & Presenter: With everything going up, there is no way the general public will be able to "spend" (something economists want consumers to do to spark up the economy). If the vast majority of people have to cut and make ends meet, then the Port Authority can do the same as well. Raising the taxes will only enable the executives to have higher raises and bonuses.

August 16, 2011 2:57:39 PM from Michael Valderrama

to All Panelists: I am a Staten Island resident and I would like to state my opposition to the proposed toll and fare increases. Staten Island residents have no choice but to utilize PANYNJ crossings when returning from areas west in New Jersey and beyond as there is essentially no public transportation between the two states.

The increased tolls, if approved will be detrimental to many family budgets, including my own and harm small businesses. The proposed toll of \$12 to \$17 to cross 80 year-old Staten Island bridges that are antiquated, obsolete and whom many perceive as unsafe is in my opinion is borderline morally unconscionable. At the current rate of \$8 is nothing short of outrageous for these bridges.

As a Staten Island resident I am familiar with many of the Port Authority's operations and proposed projects it is undertaking: It is time that the Port Authority of NY & NJ take a look at their operations and begin to discuss what can be entirely sold off, made into a public-private partnership

August 16, 2011 2:58:57 PM from Vlad Ivkovic

to Host & Presenter: My name is Vlad Ivkovic and I work in construction, using PANYNJ infrastructure to get to work almost every day. I support the increase in tolls, even if it is going to affect my finance negatively, feeling assured that the job opportunities this measure will create for people like me will not only help me get more work but hopefully improve the economic outlook of the region in general. Also, I support the infrastructure repairs for the simple reason of increased safety on the road and reduction in time spent sitting in traffic. Please note my support. Vlad from Oakland Gardens, Queens.

August 16, 2011 3:00:22 PM from Alan McCarthy

to Host & Presenter: My name is Alan McCarthy. My wife commutes to New Jersey and I support the toll increase in the hopes of keeping her safe.

August 16, 2011 3:00:38 PM from Michael Valderrama

to All Panelists: 1) The Goethals Bridge private-public partnership idea is a good start.

2) The acquisition of Stewart International Airport was in my opinion was completely unnecessary. The airport is too far from the core of the region, there is minimal to no public transportation links and air service is limited to a handful of cities.

3) The PATH train fare increases are also outrageous, especially for short trips within Hudson County. Questions that should have been asked: 1) Was the acquisition of new PATH trains absolutely necessary vs. overhauling the current fleet? 2) If fares must be increased, can the PANYNJ look to creating zones for travel similar to the PATCO system to help ensure fairness for those who travel short distances (JSQ to Grove Street) to those who travel longer ones (e.g Newark to New York)?

August 16, 2011 3:00:53 PM from Michael Valderrama

to All Panelists: 4) Recently, an idea was floated for the PANYNJ to take over Atlantic City International Airport. This idea should not be considered as North Jersey, Staten Island, NYC are bearing the brunt of these fare and toll increases.

5) Governor Christie's proposed redirection of funds intended for the Access to the Regions Core (ARC Rail Tunnel) towards replacement of the Wittipenn Bridge (Route 7) in Jersey City/Kearny as well as the creation of new roads in Hudson County should be reconsidered.

6) The Teleport on Staten Island should be sold.

August 16, 2011 3:01:01 PM from Alan McCarthy

to Host & Presenter: We live in Brooklyn and she takes the Verrazano Bridge.

August 16, 2011 3:01:04 PM from Michael Valderrama

to All Panelists: I again would like to reiterate my objection to the proposed toll and fare increases. I urge the Port Authority to look to search for internal austerity measures and not to burden an already overtaxed and overextended traveling public from further "wallet fatigue". I also urge Governor Christie and Cuomo to exercise their power to stop these fares and toll increases as well as to launch a joint bi-state independent audit and examination of every aspect of the PANYNJ's finances and operations.

August 16, 2011 3:01:51 PM from dylan klein
to Host & Presenter: i support the port authority increase

August 16, 2011 3:03:55 PM from Alexis Lloyd
to Host (privately): My name is Alexis and I live in Brooklyn. I support the toll increase based on the promise of more work opportunities for our area.

August 16, 2011 3:04:30 PM from Travis Light
to Host & Presenter: I live in Brooklyn and I support the proposed hike in tolls. I believe it will improve safety, traffic, and provide much needed jobs.

August 16, 2011 3:05:31 PM from Port Authority of New York & New Jersey
to All Attendees: We have received all of your comments. Thank you for participating. The online hearing will now end. Please use the Port Authority web site to leave any additional comments.