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John M. Case, Acting Assistant Commissioner, Government & Community Relations
NJ DOT
P.O. Box 600
Trenton, NJ 08625-0600

Dear Mr. Case:

This is a follow-up to my letter of Feb 17.

From Congressman Rodney P. Frelinghuysen, I have learned that the federal government will fund Type II noise abatement projects at 80%.

This is a bargain we shouldn't refuse. Where else can you pay only \$20 for every \$100 worth of goods and services received, and have Uncle Sam pick up the other \$80. It's almost too good to be true. Doesn't the NJ DOT know this?

Unfortunately New Jersey loses out on this bargain due to the stupidity of the Dept. of Transportation, specifically the policy of initiating no new Type II noise abatement projects.

You state that noise abatement projects compete directly with projects to increase safety, reduce congestion and repair aging bridges. But hasn't this always been true? Has there ever been a time when scarce resources have not had to be allocated between competing needs? And yet noise barriers have been built in the past, even next to woods with no residence in sight!

Making the rejection of federal funds even more egregious is something called the local multiplier effect on the local economy. The term refers to how many times dollars are recirculated within a local economy before leaving through purchase of outside items. The multiplying effect from having outside dollars spent locally creates jobs. With New Jersey employment lagging the national recovery, it's even more important to obtain federal funds for its stimulus effect on the NJ economy.

What else can I do to get the NJ DOT to change their ridiculous and shortsighted policy regarding Type II noise barriers?

Sincerely,



Paul Kardos

Copies: Assemblyman Jay Webber
Assemblywoman BettyLou DeCroce
Senator Joseph Pennacchio
Star Ledger