



Monday, August 14, 2017

AN OPEN LETTER FROM CHAIRMAN KEVIN O'TOOLE AND
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR RICK COTTON TO OUR VALUED STAFF:

THE PORT AUTHORITY OF NEW YORK AND NEW JERSEY begins a new chapter today. For the first time in 35 years, a new Chairman and a new Executive Director begin their tenures within days of each other. This rare occurrence allows for all of us to begin anew – an opportunity to work together in fulfilling our core mission.

We are both committed to creating a culture of partnership and cooperation at the highest levels of Port Authority leadership to support you – the agency's hard-working employees – to carry out your important duties. As the photos that accompany this letter attest, we have begun a series of joint tours of various facilities, including LaGuardia, Kennedy and Newark Liberty airports, the Port, PATH rail system and the Port Authority Bus Terminal. We walk in the door with an enormous amount of respect for the responsibilities and capabilities of the agency and its staff.

We pledge to work together to support the multiple initiatives in process to renew and enhance the Authority's vital transportation infrastructure.

We offer thanks to our predecessors, Chairman John Degnan and Executive Director Pat Foye, for their efforts to rebuild the public's faith in the Port Authority and return the agency to its core transportation mission, with an increased level of transparency. We will build on their early efforts in the agency's revised 10-year, \$32 billion capital plan to transform LaGuardia, Kennedy and Newark Liberty airports, the Port Authority Bus Terminal, PATH and other facilities for the 21st century.

We intend to work not only with each other, but with all of you to provide state-of-the-art transportation systems for our customers that once again will be the envy of the nation and world.



Chairman Kevin O'Toole and Executive Director Rick Cotton at Newark Liberty International Airport looking at the future home of the new Terminal 1.

At LaGuardia Airport, we celebrated with Gov. Cuomo and Delta Air Lines last week the signing of Delta's new long-term lease that will lead to the \$4 billion transformation of the airport's east side. A sleek, modern Terminal C will link to the new Terminal B to the west, which already is under construction by LaGuardia Gateway Partners. When complete, LaGuardia will be the first brand-new, unified airport built in the United States in more than two decades – complete with an AirTrain link, 21st century terminal amenities, and a welcoming Central Hall. The modernization of LaGuardia Airport will have an impact on our region for generations to come.

Joining at John F. Kennedy International Airport, we were briefed on the vision for a new modernized airport via an updated master plan. At Newark Liberty International Airport, we embraced the need for a new Terminal 1 that will bring the airport into the 21st century. No longer can we, as an agency, stand by and have any entryway of ours be considered “third world.”



Chairman O'Toole and Executive Director Cotton with Lysa Scully, General Manager of LaGuardia Airport.



Chairman O'Toole and Executive Director Cotton at Newark Liberty International Airport with Catherine Cronin, Program Director, EWR Redevelopment and Frank Radics, Interim Deputy General Manager New Jersey Airports.



Chairman O'Toole and Executive Director Cotton get an overview of the PATH Train Control Center in Jersey City, NJ by Mike Marino, Director Rail Transit/General Manager PATH.



The Chairman and Executive Director at Port Newark with Port Department Deputy Director Andrew Saporito.

We are extremely proud of the way our PATH rail system has served the region's transit commuters this summer, when Amtrak's infrastructure work reduced NJ Transit's service into Penn Station New York. NJ Transit's reductions have forced thousands of NJ Transit passengers to travel to Hoboken to use PATH trains to and from Manhattan. We've been investing heavily in PATH over the past decade, with new rail cars, installation of a computerized signal system and extensive repairs due to Superstorm Sandy flooding in 2012. We recognize the importance of PATH's continued modernization efforts, including installation of the Positive Train Control safety enhancement by next year's federally mandated deadline.

Touring our port facilities, perhaps an under-appreciated asset as it relates to the economic impacts to our region, we saw first hand how investing in our facilities creates opportunities for residents in our area. To address the expansion of the Panama Canal, this agency did the unthinkable – you raised the Bayonne Bridge! The result of this incredible feat will be on display in a few weeks when we welcome the largest ship into our port. We look forward to working together to enhance the competitiveness of our port facilities that are vital to the region's economic future.



Chairman O’Toole and Executive Director Cotton tour the Port Authority Bus Terminal with TB&T’s Director, Diannae Ehler, and Port Authority Bus Terminal General Manager, Mark Schaff.

That brings us to the 67-year old Port Authority Bus Terminal – one of the most significant transportation challenges facing our agency and region. We are both in harmony that a replacement terminal is needed on Manhattan’s West Side, built both to meet commuter needs and be respectful of the surrounding community. Having a bus terminal designed for 20th century commuters in a 21st century economy is simply not feasible. A modern, properly functioning bus terminal is vital to ensuring we are able to move our commuters and economy forward for decades to come.

We are honored and proud, not only to serve together, but as the first Chairman and Executive Director of The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey to begin their tenures together in nearly four decades. As we look to collectively help guide this agency into the future, we do not take lightly the significance of this rare opportunity. Our 1921 compact begins “They agree to and pledge, each to the other, faithful co-operation,” and so does our pledge to you and The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey.

Sincerely,
Kevin O’Toole, Chairman
Rick Cotton, Executive Director