

RESOLUTION 2022-214

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BARNEGAT, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY URGING THE NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO EARMARK FUNDS FROM THE STATE'S SHARE OF FEDERAL FUNDING UNDER THE INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT AND JOBS ACT FOR THE WIDENING AND IMPROVEMENT OF ROUTES 9 AND 70 IN OCEAN COUNTY

WHEREAS, New Jersey will receive \$12.32 billion over the next five years under the \$1.2 trillion Federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act ("IIJA"), \$6.884 billion of which is dedicated to highways and road; and

WHEREAS, Route 9 is a heavily traveled and congested one-lane highway south of Monmouth County through Lakewood, Toms River, and the central and southern portions of Ocean County; and

WHEREAS, although the populations of both Toms River (from 76,371 in 1990 to 95,438 in 2020) and Lakewood (from 45,116 in 1990 to 135,158 in 2020) have exploded over the past 30 years, Route 9, despite being the major state artery through both municipalities, remains the same archaic one-lane highway that is was 50 years ago; and

WHEREAS, Toms River and the rest of Ocean County should enjoy a four-lane Route 9 to the same extent as Monmouth and other counties to the north; and

WHEREAS, Route 70 bisects the state for approximately 60 miles from Camden County to Monmouth County and is the only east-west state highway that crosses the state between the Atlantic City Expressway to the south and Interstate 195 to the north; and

WHEREAS, Route 70 remains a one-lane highway in Ocean and Burlington Counties through the Pine Barrens; and

WHEREAS, Route 70 should similarly be widened in Ocean County Burlington Counties to enhance commerce and tourism and access to the Philadelphia Metropolitan area for the residents of both counties; and

WHEREAS, On February 14, 2022 the Township of Toms River, Mayor Hill, wrote to Secretary Diane Gutierrez-Scaccetti of the New Jersey Department of Transportation ("NJDOT") expressing these concerns and urging the Department to earmark funds un the IIJA for the widening and improvements of Routes 9 and 70 in Ocean County; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township of Barnegat that Township Committee joins with Toms River Township Mayor Hill in urging the New Jersey Department of Transportation to prioritize the widening and improvement of Routes 9 and 70 in Ocean County with the recent infusion of federal infrastructure funds under IIJA.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, by the Township of Barnegat, County of Ocean, State of New Jersey that certified copies of this resolution shall be forwarded to Ocean County Board of Commissioners, all Ocean County Mayors, the New Jersey League of Municipalities, and Secretary Diane Gutierrez-Scaccetti, New Jersey Department of Transportation.

CERTIFICATION

I, Donna M. Manno Municipal Clerk of the Township of Barnegat, County of Ocean, State of New Jersey do hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly adopted by the Township Committee of the Township of Barnegat at their regular meeting held on the 5th day of July, 2022, in the Municipal Complex, 900 West Bay Avenue, Barnegat, New Jersey.

Donna M. Manno, RMC
Municipal Clerk