

RESOLUTION 2022-64

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BARNEGAT, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, ALONG WITH OCEAN COUNTY OPPOSING THE TOLL INCREASES PROPOSED BY THE NEW JERSEY TURNPIKE AUTHORITY AND SOUTH JERSEY TURNPIKE AUTHORITY

WHEREAS, the Township of Barnegat continues to see its population grow and along with that come the need to move people to and from jobs, medical appointments, recreational activities just to name a few destinations; and

WHEREAS, our citizens heavily rely on the Garden State Parkway, the New Jersey Turnpike, and the Atlantic City Expressway to move both locally and across the state; and

WHEREAS, with almost 40 miles of the Garden State Parkway running through Ocean County, our residents again will be among the hardest hit by another toll increase of 3 percent scheduled to go into effect on January 1, 2022; and

WHEREAS, more than 90,000 people living in Ocean County commute outside of the area for employment; and

WHEREAS, this toll increase comes on the heels of a 27 percent toll increase put into place September 2020 in addition to an almost 7 percent increase in U.S. consumer prices; and

WHEREAS, the Garden State Parkway serves as the main artery for our motorists who need to access jobs, be it north or south and any toll hike would have a negative effect as it increases the cost of a daily commute; and

WHEREAS, the State of New Jersey has not given the Township of Barnegat motorists any traveling options; and

WHEREAS, Route 9, the other north-south artery has not changed since it was first constructed in the 1920's, remaining on lane in each travel direction throughout the course of Barnegat while in the meantime our population has grown to almost 630,000 people in the county; and

WHEREAS, Ocean County has been continually informed by State transportation officials that dualization of Route 9 will probably never occur; and

WHEREAS, it is important to highlight that these routes are for more than just leisurely travel but are designated evacuation routes during times of emergencies; and

WHEREAS, in the last few decades, the state has made improvements to the Garden State Parkway, constructing new interchanges and upgrading existing ones but those improvements did not come to us simply because we needed them. It helped substantially to have representation on the former Highway Authority paired with Ocean County providing the initial funding to obtain the design and permitting of many of these projects; and

WHEREAS, the Jersey Shore area, based on the number of residents using the toll roads, should have representation on the New Jersey Turnpike Authority; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Barnegat continues its urging of the state to provide improved rail service to Monmouth and Ocean counties; and

WHEREAS, Ocean County motorists, based on volume, already pour millions of dollars into the parkway through the toll system; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Barnegat and Ocean County residents will feel the financial burden of this action over and over again, not just on the road but in our stores and as consumers as prices go up even more in order to meet the demands on a shipping industry that is also paying more to bring us goods and services; and

WHEREAS, the Turnpike Authority did not provide those paying the bill with even an opportunity to comment on this increase as it is being implemented automatically; and

WHEREAS, undoubtedly, North Jersey will see the benefits to this increase as funds are provided in those northern areas for road and bridge improvements, leaving the residents of the Township of Barnegat paying the bill; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Township of Barnegat, County of Ocean State of New Jersey, urges Governor Murphy, New Jersey Turnpike Authority, and South Jersey Turnpike Authority to reconsider the increase in tolls on the Garden State Parkway, the New Jersey Turnpike and the Atlantic City Expressway and encourage all of our elected officials to join the efforts to oppose this toll increase.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution shall be made available to Governor Phil Murphy, all Ocean County Mayors, the 9th, 10th, 12th and 30th State Legislative Offices, the New Jersey Turnpike Authority, and the South Jersey Turnpike Authority.

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 1st day of January 2022, in the Municipal Complex, 900 West Bay Avenue, Barnegat, New Jersey.

Donna M. Manno, RMC
Municipal Clerk