

RESOLUTION 2025-56

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BARNEGAT, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, OPPOSING AN INCREASE TO THE TOLLS ON BOTH THE GARDEN STATE PARKWAY AND THE NEW JERSEY TURNPIKE

WHEREAS, the Ocean County Board of Commissioners have repeatedly opposed ongoing toll increases along both the Garden State Parkway and the New Jersey Turnpike; and

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Turnpike Authority has announced a 3 percent toll increase on both highways effective January 2025; and

WHEREAS, this will be the fifth such increase since 2020; and

WHEREAS, Ocean County residents pay a disproportionate amount of these toll increases due to limited access to state-wide public transportation, which forces residents to rely on their personal vehicles; and

WHEREAS, Ocean County's commuters tend to travel a longer distance on the Parkway to reach their jobs than drivers in many other parts of the state; and

WHEREAS, many of our more than 200,000 senior citizens are living on fixed incomes and are already struggling with higher prices for food, medicine and home heating and should not be burdened with higher transportation costs; and

WHEREAS, the increase could also deter visitors from traveling to Ocean County, negatively impacting our \$7 billion tourism industry; and

WHEREAS, our residents have also been forced to pay an unfair share of a series of ongoing state gasoline tax increases; and

WHEREAS, Governor Phil Murphy has the constitutional power to veto the 2025 New Jersey Turnpike Authority's budget and eliminate the toll increase.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Township Committee of the Township of Barnegat, County of Ocean, State of New Jersey, continues to strongly oppose an increase to the tolls on both the Garden State Parkway and the New Jersey Turnpike.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Township Committee of the Township of Barnegat calls on Governor Phil Murphy to veto the proposed New Jersey Turnpike budget and cancel this ill-conceived increase.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution shall be sent to the Governor Phil Murphy, our 9th, 10th, 12th, and 30th Legislative District Representatives, the Director of the New Jersey Department of Transportation and the Mayors of all 33 Ocean County Municipalities.

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 at their Reorganization meeting held in the Municipal Complex, 900 West Bay Avenue, Barnegat, on January 1, 2025

Donna M. Manno, RMC
Municipal Clerk