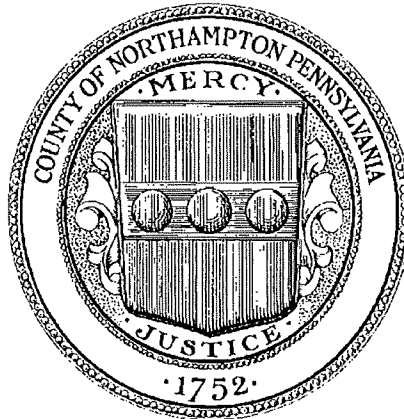


# THE COUNTY OF NORTHAMPTON



## RESOLUTION

Number 29-2022

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING A REQUEST FOR A STUDY OF INTERSTATE 80 (I-80) IN WARREN COUNTY, NJ THAT IMPACTS NORTHAMPTON COUNTY, PA

**WHEREAS**, Northampton County, PA is physically connected to Warren County, NJ by over 40 miles of the Delaware River, seven vehicle and pedestrian bridges and three railroad crossings; and

**WHEREAS**, in September 2021 the Warren County (NJ) Board of Commissioners passed Resolution 420-21, requesting the New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT) to initiate a Problem Statement to study the safety, mobility and congestion issues on I-80 from Exit 4 Columbia/Portland to the Delaware Water Gap Bridge; and

**WHEREAS**, Northampton County municipalities including Upper Mount Bethel Township, Lower Mount Bethel Township, Plainfield Township, Portland Borough, and Pen Aryl Borough have enacted resolutions in support of the NJDOT problem statement request and have requested traffic impact studies; and

**WHEREAS**, Northampton County Fire and Rescue Departments, through mutual aid agreements with their New Jersey counterparts, service accidents between the Portland/Columbia Bridge and I-80 Delaware Water Gap Bridge Toll Plaza, as well as emergency, fire and rescue events in their own and nearby communities; and

**WHEREAS**, current traffic volumes and anticipated increased traffic volumes affect the safety and lifestyle of residents within Northampton County; and

**WHEREAS**, any traffic disruption near these river crossings creates a well-documented hazardous environmental ripple effect of secondary crashes, disruptions to the flow of commerce and commuters, traffic overflow into residential, tourist and farming communities, and lifestyle disruptions affecting shopping, employer/employee access, access to doctors and hospitals, worship, recreation, small business economy, education and emergency response.

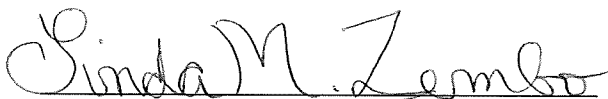
**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the Northampton County Council as follows:

1. Northampton County Council supports regional efforts requesting the NJDOT to immediately 1) initiate a Problem Statement to study the safety, mobility and congestion issues on I-80 from Exit 4 - Portland/Columbia Bridge and the Delaware Water Gap Bridge; 2) initiate a regional traffic study; and 3) delay the I-80 Rockfall Project pending the outcome of the studies.

2. Northampton County Council encourages all municipalities, State and Federally elected representatives, organizations, and transportation agencies who serve Northampton County to consider similar action supporting regional efforts as stated above.

ATTEST:

INTRODUCED BY:



Linda M. Zembo  
Clerk to Council

Tara M. Zrinski

The above resolution was adopted by the Northampton County Council at the meeting held February 17, 2022.