

Why Infrastructure Investment Matters — For New Jersey and For Banking

By Jerry Keenan

You can't have what we enjoy here in New Jersey without continuous investment in our infrastructure.

And by infrastructure, we mean all kinds:

Transportation systems—our mass transit, roads, and bridges.

Utilities—that bring essential services into our homes and businesses.

Public buildings—that serve government and deliver vital community services.

Every type of infrastructure plays a role in shaping vibrant communities—and those communities thrive when supported by the financial strength and expertise of NJ Bankers members. Capital construction and economic investment go hand-in-hand.

Earlier this spring, the Alliance for Action hosted our annual New Jersey's Leading Capital Construction Projects event. We spotlighted 27 transformative projects currently under construction—projects making a real difference across the state.

Some are impossible to miss. MetLife Stadium is undergoing major improvements as it prepares to host the 2026 World Cup final and seven preliminary matches. In Hoboken, the PATH station—used by over five million passengers a year—just received a dramatic, month-long makeover.

And the work doesn't stop there.

Our state's public utilities are essential partners. We rely on them daily—and they're investing billions in upgrades to electric transmission, gas lines, water pipelines, and more. With rising demand from electric vehicles, data centers, and tech infrastructure, the need for expanded electric generation capacity is growing rapidly.

NJ TRANSIT is stepping up in a major way, with an \$8 billion capital plan over the next three years—on top of the \$6 billion invested from 2018 to 2024. In South Jersey, NJ TRANSIT and PATCO are teaming up to develop a new light rail line from Glassboro to Camden, helping ease congestion on major roadways.

Transit villages across the state are bringing real change to our communities. Rail access leads to economic development—no matter which line you’re talking about. A great example? The new housing and office complex at Metro Park in Woodbridge. It’ll include about 250 apartments and serve as both a regional headquarters and an outpatient center for Hackensack Meridian Health.

Further down the Northeast Corridor in New Brunswick, the HELIX project—led by the New Brunswick Development Corporation—is taking shape. With a focus on research and collaboration in our growing life sciences corridor, HELIX is also triggering upgrades to the city’s rail station, including enhanced Amtrak Acela service.

Meanwhile, the New Jersey Department of Transportation and the Turnpike Authority are rolling out more than \$3.4 billion in road and bridge investments for 2025 alone. The Turnpike is launching two major projects: work on the Newark Bay Bridge and the widening of the Turnpike from Exits 1 to 4.

The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey is also making major moves, with \$3.9 billion in capital construction planned for this year. That includes its PATH Forward program—highlighted by the new Hoboken station—and preliminary work on the new Terminal B and Newark Liberty AirTrain. These upgrades are critical for an airport that served more than 50 million passengers in 2024.

At the New Jersey Alliance for Action, we remain strong advocates for the construction economy. The projects mentioned here are just a snapshot of how infrastructure investment is driving economic growth across the state. It keeps our union construction workforce active—and the ripple effects of that economic activity are powerful.

At the end of the day, infrastructure investment benefits the communities you serve. Bankers understand economics better than anyone, and we look forward to continued collaboration with the New Jersey Bankers Association to support smart, strategic growth.

To learn more about the work we’re doing at the Alliance, visit us at www.allianceforaction.com.

Jerry Keenan is a former radio and TV reporter. He joined the New Jersey Alliance for Action in 1997 and became its president in 2020.

Below : Rendering of the new Newark Bay Bridge on the New Jersey Turnpike Extension (NJTA)



Below: Finished Rendering and Current Construction of The Helix in New Brunswick (NJTOD Newsletter)

