

October 16, 2015

**RE: Weekly Policy Update**

**I. Mayors Invited To Gateway Project Forum**

**II. Creative Solutions to the 2% Cap**

**III. NJAFM Conference**

**IV. Best Practices Checklist for CY Municipalities is due Friday, October 16**

Dear Mayor:

Here is a brief recap of some policy issues of interest:

**I. Mayors Invited To Gateway Project Forum**

New Jersey's vital railroad link to Penn Station New York needs immediate attention. Imagine the impact on our State's economy, the traffic impact on our roads, the devastating impact on the quality of life and the impact on property values, if that link were to be severed. Every business day, about 150,000 passengers ride New Jersey Transit's over 300 trains to and from Penn Station. Amtrak, which owns and operates the tunnels, relies on this link to move another 100 trains, daily.

After assessing the strains that the passage of time, intense usage and Sandy have placed on the infrastructure, in May 2014, Amtrak CEO Joseph Boardman announced that, in less than 20 years, one or both of the tunnels would have to be shut down. A commitment must now be made to begin real work on the Gateway Project. Senators Booker and Menendez are leading the fight in Washington to secure the needed funding. Governor Christie supports the project. But we now need all those who represent our State in the House of Representatives to get on board.

You are invited to learn more and to join the discussion with Senator Booker and a panel of experts at a forum on "The Economics of the Gateway." This opportunity is scheduled for Friday, October 30, 2015 (9:15 AM - 12:00 PM) at Prudential Headquarters Dryden Hall (751 Broad Street in Newark). We have posted more information on this session on our website at Gateway Forum Flier. Please RSVP at [www.rpa.org/economicsofgateway](http://www.rpa.org/economicsofgateway) if you plan to attend.

**II. Complete the Survey on School-Municipal Cooperation: Creative Solutions to the 2% Cap**

As part of our commitment to cooperation and efficiency, the New Jersey School Boards Association and the New Jersey State League of Municipalities will once again present sessions on school district-municipal relations at our annual conferences. This year's topic will be "School-Municipal Cooperation: Creative Solutions to the 2% Cap". Please have the mayor or administrator take a few minutes to complete the brief survey, available at [www.surveymonkey.com/r/NJSLOM](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NJSLOM), about the efforts by your school district and municipal

government to control costs and foster communication. The information will be shared during the presentations at both conferences

### **III. NJAFM Conference**

The New Jersey Association for Floodplain Management (NJAFM) is holding its 2015 Conference, starting on 20 October, 2015 at Bally's in Atlantic City. For details, please go to: <http://www.njafm.org/resources/Documents/2015%20Conference%20concurrent%20sessions%2010-5-15.pdf>

### **IV. Best Practices Checklist for CY Municipalities is due Friday, October 16**

As a reminder the Best Practices Checklist for Calendar Year or Transitional Fiscal Year municipalities is due by Friday, October 16. For more information [click here](#) **Contact:** Lori Buckelew, 609-695-3481 x112 or [lbuckelew@njslom.org](mailto:lbuckelew@njslom.org)

Sincerely,

Michael J. Darcy, CAE Executive  
Director