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COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

SUBCOMMITTEE ON HEALTH

COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

February 13, 2015

The Honorable Jamie Fox
Commissioner
New Jersey Department of Transportation
P.O. Box 600
Trenton, NJ 08625-0600

Dear Commissioner Fox:

I am writing to express my deep concerns about a grade crossing at Midland Avenue in Elmwood Park, New Jersey and to request that the State of New Jersey dedicate resources to improve the safety at this intersection. I would ask that my office be given a briefing on the history of safety issues at this crossing, the improvements that have been made to date, and any plans that have been made to address this issue moving forward.

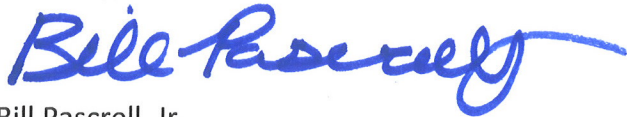
The Federal Railroad Administration's Accident Prediction System, as reported by *The New York Times*, has determined that the crossing where the New Jersey Transit Bergen County commuter rail line crosses Midland Avenue as the single most dangerous intersection in the Tri-State area. There have been a record 29 accidents at this crossing in the past 40 years, resulting in two deaths and six injuries. Looking back, it seems that every several months there is a new story in *The Record* about a commuter train hitting a car at this crossing. These accidents become more alarming in light of the tragic event in Westchester on the Metro-North system earlier this month. I would like to work with your department to find a permanent solution to this grave public safety issue.

As you know, under MAP-21, the federal government provides funding, albeit limited, to states through the Highway-Railway Crossing Program. New Jersey was allocated \$2.4 Million for this purpose in fiscal year 2015. I would urge that these dollars, in addition to other eligible federal,

state, or New Jersey Transit programs, be directed towards making improvements to the grade crossing deemed most dangerous to the traveling public.

Thank you for your attention to this request. Please let me, or my Chief of Staff, Ben Rich, know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Bill Pascrell, Jr.", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Bill Pascrell, Jr.

Member of Congress

cc: Veronique Hakim, New Jersey Transit; Mary K. Murphy, North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority; The Hon. James Tedesco, Bergen County Executive; The Hon. Richard Mola, Mayor, Borough of Elmwood Park; The Hon. Robert D. White, Mayor, Township of Saddle Brook