



NJDOT NEWS



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Murphy Administration announces \$28.8 million in FY2020 Rail Freight Assistance Program grants **13 rail projects will improve the existing freight system to support economic activity**

(Trenton) – The Murphy Administration today announced 13 grants totaling more than \$28.8 million through the New Jersey Department of Transportation’s FY2020 Rail Freight Assistance Program.

The grants help support economic activity by preserving and improving the existing freight transportation system and by making freight rail service more widely available for businesses throughout the state. Rail freight improvements support the state’s clean energy, congestion mitigation, and sustainable development goals.

“The Murphy Administration is committed to strengthening New Jersey’s economy by improving our rail transportation network to ensure the safe and efficient movement of goods,” NJDOT Commissioner Diane Gutierrez-Scaccetti said. “The projects funded through the Rail Freight Assistance Program provide businesses with options on how to ship goods.”

[The 13 projects receiving funding](#) are located in 12 counties and include constructing new sidetracks for loading and unloading, upgrading and repairing existing railroad tracks, installing new or upgraded switches, and repairing bridges and culverts.

The Murphy Administration has invested more than \$52.1 million in New Jersey’s freight rail services, leveraging an additional \$19.5 million from railroad owners and operators, for a total of more than \$71.6 million in rail freight assistance program investment.

The Rail Freight Assistance Program, administered by the NJDOT [Office of Grants Management](#), provides funding for capital improvements that result in the continuation of economically viable rail freight services in the state. Grant applications are evaluated on a cost/benefit basis. Factors considered in the selection of the projects include: economic benefits, efficient and responsive freight distribution, energy and environmental factors, and highway congestion mitigation. Sponsors – typically the owner of the railroad – also are required to continue freight service on the improved line for at least five years after completion of the project.

The [New Jersey Rail Freight Assistance Program](#) grants typically provide funding for between 70 and 90 percent of the estimated cost of each project while the sponsor is responsible for providing the remaining amount. Application proposals are [accepted through SAGE](#), the State's on-line System for Administering Grants Electronically.

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