

## Governor Christie Announces Once-In-A-Generation Improvements to Turnpike, Parkway Service Areas

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### 16 Rest Stops Will Be Overhauled Without Spending Any Taxpayer Or Toll Dollars

**Trenton, NJ** - Enhancing his unparalleled record of transportation and quality of life improvements for New Jerseyans, Governor Chris Christie announced today that 16 service areas along the New Jersey Turnpike and Garden State Parkway will be replaced or refurbished without the use of any toll or tax dollars.

Under an agreement reached by the New Jersey Turnpike Authority (NJTA), HMSHost and Sunoco, the two private companies will make more than \$250 million in capital improvements to the service area buildings and facilities, at no cost to the NJTA, in exchange for new contracts to continue operating the food and fuel concessions on the turnpike and parkway for the next 25 years.

"This agreement will provide drivers with the safest, cleanest, modern highway rest stops up and down the Turnpike and Parkway, without spending any of their tax and toll dollars, while continuing to ensure the most affordable fuel in the region for the next few decades," Governor Christie said. "It represents a once-in-a-generation opportunity to enlist our proven partners in the cause of replacing service area facilities as old as the toll roads themselves with pleasant, state-of-the-art facilities for tens of millions of people to rest, grab a bite, fill up, then head back out to the road refreshed and ready to safely reach their destinations."

Under the agreement, HMSHost will replace the buildings at the Vince Lombardi, Thomas Edison, Joyce Kilmer, Walt Whitman, Clara Barton, and John Fenwick service areas on the Turnpike and the Forked River and Monmouth service areas on the Parkway. All of those buildings have been in service since the mid-1950s, shortly after the toll roads opened to traffic, and are in poor condition. The new buildings will total 138,300 square feet and cost between \$10 million and \$15 million apiece. The Thomas Edison and Monmouth facilities are the first ones scheduled to be replaced. Construction on those two will begin next year and is expected to be completed in 2019.

HMSHost agreed to invest an additional \$26.4 million to remodel the Woodrow Wilson, Richard Stockton, Molly Pitcher, and James Fenimore Cooper service areas on the Turnpike and the Cheesequake and Montvale service areas on the Parkway. At most of those facilities, the work will involve the construction of open, natural-light dining areas and new restroom facilities.

In addition to committing \$90 million on capital improvements at 21 fuel service facilities on the Turnpike and Parkway, and to remodeling its existing convenience stores, Sunoco agreed to build new convenience stores at the Brookdale North Service Area on the Parkway and the Alexander Hamilton Service Area on the Turnpike. If feasible, Sunoco will also build a new fuel service facility and convenience store along the eastbound Newark Bay-Hudson County Extension of the Turnpike.

"Having bright, modern facilities at every service area on two of the busiest toll roads in the U.S. will put the State of New Jersey and the NJTA in a better light to all who visit," said New Jersey Transportation Commissioner Richard Hammer, who serves as chairman of the NJTA Board of Commissioners. "And the new facilities are likely to draw more business, which would mean an increase in NJTA's non-toll revenue. These improvements are not being made with public dollars, but they will have real public benefits."

The agreements with HMSHost and Sunoco still need to be approved by the NJTA Board of Commissioners. The board is expected to vote on them this month. Both contracts would become effective shortly after they are approved.

The contract with HMSHost is for 25 years, plus a two-year construction period. The contract with Sunoco is for 25 years.

Most of the capital improvements will be made during the first seven years of the contracts. HMSHost and Sunoco also agreed to make ongoing annual capital investments over the life of the contracts. The HMSHost agreement obligates the company to rehabilitate the restroom facilities again during the life of the contract.

"The agreements compare favorably to the ones other toll road agencies have with their service area operators," said NJTA Executive Director Joseph W. Mrozek. "The maintenance of the restaurant buildings and the underground storage tanks at the fuel service facilities will now be the responsibility of HMSHost and Sunoco rather than the NJTA. With the rate of rents and fees the companies will pay and the minimum annual guarantees, we know that the food and fuel concessions will continue to provide an important source of non-toll revenue for the NJTA for the next quarter of a century. Most importantly, without having to invest any NJTA money, we're going to be able to offer our customers beautiful, comfortable, convenient service areas where they'll be able to take a break from the road."

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