RESOLUTION NO. 12-09

OFFERED BY:    Mayor Michael Gonnelli (Secaucus)
SECONDED BY:  Douglas Greenfeld (Jersey City)

A RESOLUTION CALLING ON THE DEVELOPER OF AMERICAN DREAM MEADOWLANDS, TRIPLE FIVE WORLDWIDE, TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE COST OF ADDING MASS TRANSIT SERVICE TO THE PROJECT SITE

WHEREAS, Triple Five Worldwide is working with the New Jersey Sports and Exposition Authority to develop American Dream Meadowlands, a shopping, entertainment and tourism center, on the former site of the Mills/Mack-Cali Xanadu project within the New Jersey Meadowlands District. The Meadowlands District was statutorily created in 1969 and encompasses some fourteen (14) member communities (hereinafter “Meadowlands”); and

WHEREAS, the Hackensack Meadowlands Municipal Committee was created by The Hackensack Meadowlands Reclamation and Development Act (N.J.S.A. 13-17-1 et seq), effective January 13, 1969 and is charged with reviewing all proposed codes and standards, master plans or amendments, development and redevelopment improvement plans or other major decisions of the New Jersey Meadowlands Commission; and

WHEREAS, Triple Five Worldwide intends to expand the project site to include a 14.7 acre water park/amusement park; and

WHEREAS, Triple Five Worldwide expects 55 million annual visitors to American Dream Meadowlands; and

WHEREAS, the American Dream Meadowlands is expected to significantly impact traffic and congestion on the roads and in the municipalities surrounding the Meadowlands; and

WHEREAS, the impact this increased traffic will have on the roads and quality of life in the surrounding municipalities has not been adequately addressed in any studies of the project to date; and

WHEREAS, the October 1, 2004 Joint Hearing Officer’s Report issued by the Meadowlands Commission and New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection on the Xanadu project explicitly found the scope of previous traffic studies deficient; and

WHEREAS, the Joint Hearing Officer’s Report called for a new traffic impact analysis evaluating the impact to roadways, intersections, and merges from the proposed development within a 4 miles radius; and

WHEREAS, this 4 mile radius traffic impact analysis was never done by Mills/Mack-Cali in conjunction with Xanadu or Triple Five in conjunction with American Dream Meadowlands; and
WHEREAS, Triple Five Worldwide is calling upon the State, through NJTransit, to provide robust bus and regular rail service to American Dream Meadowlands; and

WHEREAS, Triple Five has indicated this expansion of service is necessary to address increased traffic that will be generated by the American Dream Meadowlands; and

WHEREAS, NJ Transit has publicly stated that its current funding is already insufficient to meet demands; and

WHEREAS, increased service will require additional resources that NJTransit cannot be expected to provide alone;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED on this 16th day of July 2012, by Hackensack Meadowlands Municipal Committee that:

1. The HMMC calls on the New Jersey Sports and Exposition Authority, to conduct a thorough analysis of the traffic impacts of the American Dream Meadowlands project consistent with the findings contained in the Joint Hearing Officers report issued on October 1, 2004.

2. At minimum, the study must include the following locations: NJ Route 3 corridor from NJ Route 21 to Interstate 495, NJ Route 17 corridor from Interstate 80 to NJ Route 3, NJ Route 17 and Moonachie Avenue intersection, Paterson Plank Road from the New Jersey Turnpike to NJ Route 17, NJ Route 120/Washington Avenue/Moonachie Road from NJ Route 3 to Route 46, and New Jersey Turnpike Interchange(s) 16W and 18W.

3. The HMMC further calls upon the developer, Triple Five Worldwide, to provide an annual operating subsidy to NJ Transit’s costs for adding bus service and regular rail service to American Dream Meadowlands.

4. The HMMC’s Executive Director shall forward certified copies of this Resolution to New Jersey Sports and Exposition Authority, New Jersey Department of Transportation, NJ Transit, the North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority, the New Jersey Meadowlands Commission, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, Department of Community Affairs and Governor Chris Christie.

5. The HMMC’s Executive Director shall also forward certified copies of this Resolution to U.S. Senator Frank Lautenberg, U.S. Senator Robert Menendez, U.S. Representative Steven Rothman and U.S. Representative Albio Sires, U.S. Representative Bill Pascrell.

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6. The HMMC shall also forward certified copies of this Resolution to Senator Nicolas Sacco, Assemblywoman Angelica Jimenez, and Assemblyman Vincent Prieto, Senator Brian P. Stack, Assemblyman Sean Connors, and Assemblyman Ruben Ramos, and Senator Paul Sarlo, Assemblywoman Marlene Caride, and Assemblyman Gary Schauer.

7. The HMMC's Executive Director shall also forward certified copies of this Resolution to the Mayors of Carlstadt, East Rutherford, Little Ferry, Lyndhurst, Moonachie, North Arlington, Ridgefield, Rutherford, South Hackensack, Teterboro, Jersey City, Kearny, North Bergen, Secaucus, Hasbrouck Heights, Wood-Ridge, Wallington, Union City, West New York, Guttenberg, and Fairview.

8. The HMMC's Executive Director shall also forward certified copies of this Resolution to the County Executives of Bergen County, Hudson County and Passaic County.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the above resolution is a true and exact copy of the original offered by the Town of Secaucus, seconded by the City of Jersey City and passed by a vote of the Hackensack Meadowlands Municipal Committee at their regularly scheduled meeting held on Monday, September 10, 2012, a quorum being present.

Fred J. Dressel
Executive Director, HMMC

8 Ayes
1 Nay
5 Absent

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