



Support for Christie's Rail Tunnel Cancellation Grows, Rutgers Poll Shows

By Dunstan McNichol - Dec 9, 2010

More [New Jersey](#) residents support Gov. [Chris Christie](#)'s cancellation of a proposed \$8.7 billion Hudson River commuter-rail tunnel than immediately following his October decision, a Rutgers-Eagleton poll shows.

After hearing a brief description of the project's economic value, 56 percent of respondents supported Christie's decision, up from 51 percent in October, according to the poll released today. An extension of New York's No. 7 subway was supported by 74 percent of those queried, with 13 percent opposed.

"Across New Jersey, residents continue to support the governor's decision to cancel the project," said [David Redlawsk](#), the poll's director and a Rutgers professor of politics. "At the same time there is recognition that increasing mass-transit options into and out of New York - if that can be done at a lower cost - is a good idea."

Advised of the U.S. Transportation Department's demand for repayment of \$271 million in federal funds spent on the project before it was stopped, respondents opposed canceling it, 47 percent to 37 percent, the poll said. The board of [New Jersey Transit](#), the state agency in charge of the project, voted today to hire lawyers from the Washington law firm [Patton Boggs LLP](#) at \$485 an hour to contest the bill.

Christie, a first-term Republican, killed the 8.8-mile (14-kilometer) tunnel, projected to double commuter capacity in and out of Manhattan from New Jersey, on Oct. 27 because he said the state couldn't afford \$5 billion in potential extra costs.

The telephone survey of 906 residents was conducted from Dec. 2-6 and has a margin of error of plus or minus 3.3 percentage points. It was paid for by the Eagleton Institute of Politics at Rutgers in New Brunswick, New Jersey.

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