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**COUNCILMAN KENYATTA JOHNSON ANNOUNCES MULTIYEAR 25TH STREET
VIADUCT IMPROVEMENT PROJECT BY CSX**

PHILADELPHIA – Councilman Kenyatta Johnson (District 2) announced at a press conference today that CSX Transportation, owner of the 25th Street Viaduct in South Philadelphia, will initiate a multi-year improvement project to restore the condition and appearance of the 1.2-mile-long bridge, which connects the Port of Philadelphia and other Philadelphia freight customers to the national freight rail network.

Councilman Johnson said, “Following extensive discussions and coordination between my office, the City of Philadelphia and CSX Transportation, I am pleased to announce that CSX will make a multi-million dollar investment to improve the safety and aesthetics of the 25th Street Viaduct.”

William Goetz, resident vice president of state government relations for CSX, said, “We appreciate Councilman Johnson’s leadership in facilitating development of a plan that advances our mutual safety and economic development goals by restoring this important piece of transportation infrastructure.”

The Viaduct Improvement Project consists of four phases, beginning in 2015. The work includes constructing a debris shield to protect pedestrians and vehicles that pass underneath the bridge; removing the parapet walls on either side of the bridge; restoring the drainage system and bridge decking to like-new condition; replacing the parapet walls with new, pre-cast concrete panels; and resurfacing the public-facing concrete columns and supporting structure. The entire project is expected to take up to five years to complete.

“CSX has agreed to continue coordinating its plans with my office going forward, to be sure that we maximize the safety of this project for the public and workers alike, and to minimize any impact the construction may have on residents and drivers in the South 25th Street area,” Councilman Johnson said.

“I appreciate CSX’s commitment of resources to this project and look forward to the day when the viaduct is restored to like-new condition. With that said, we have a great deal of work to do to ensure that the neighborhoods surrounding our rail systems are safe from the materials being transported through our city. I will continue to push the federal government to release new regulations that require safer train cars. I will also continue to pressure rail companies and their customers to maintain their infrastructure and upgrade their rail car inventory to models that prevent leakage or explosions in the event of a derailment,” Councilman Johnson said.

To help ensure area residents have the latest information about the project, CSX has created a website at www.CSX25thStreetVIP.com. Visitors to that site will find project information and can sign up for future project updates. CSX will publish additional information about the project as it becomes available, including details about any impact on traffic or street accessibility during the project.

The 1920s-era viaduct carries two railroad tracks 14 feet or more above South 25th Street between Washington Avenue and West Passyunk Avenue. It was designed to remove all street-level railroad tracks from South Philadelphia while maintaining transportation infrastructure that was adequate to support the city's growing economy.

The viaduct is structurally sound, and CSX inspects it frequently to ensure its safety and suitability for railroad operations. Philadelphia's weather over the viaduct's 90+ year lifespan has impacted the structure's outer surfaces. CSX's Viaduct Improvement Project will help protect the safety of South Philadelphia residents and ensure the continued availability of this important transportation link.

About Kenyatta Johnson

Since 2012, Councilman Kenyatta Johnson has represented Philadelphia's 2nd District, which covers parts of Center City, South and Southwest Philadelphia and also includes the stadium area, Philadelphia International Airport, the Navy Yard and the Eastwick, Grays Ferry, Hawthorne and Point Breeze neighborhoods. Councilman Johnson chairs the Committee on Transportation and Public Utilities and the Legislative Oversight Committee. He also serves on the following committees: Finance; Streets and Services; Licenses and Inspections; Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs; Public Health and Human Services; Public Safety; Housing Neighborhood Development and the Homeless; and Technology and Information Services. More information about Councilman Johnson is available online at <http://phlcouncil.com/council-members/councilman-kenyatta-johnson-2nd-district/> and on Twitter <https://twitter.com/CouncilmanKJ>.

About CSX

CSX, based in Jacksonville, Fla., is a premier transportation company. It provides rail, intermodal and rail-to-truck transload services and solutions to customers across a broad array of markets, including energy, industrial, construction, agricultural, and consumer products. In Pennsylvania, CSX operates and maintains nearly 2,000 miles of track and employs approximately 1,000 workers. In 2013, CSX handled more than 1.9 million carloads of freight on the rail network in Pennsylvania. More information about CSX Corporation and its subsidiaries is available at www.csx.com, on Facebook (<http://facebook.com/OfficialCSX>) and Twitter (<http://twitter.com/CSX>).

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