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THE COUNCIL
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October 25, 2017

The Honorable Rick Cotton
 Executive Director
 Port Authority of New York and New Jersey
 4 World Trade Center
 New York, NY 10007

Dear Executive Director Cotton,

We are writing to you today with the clear hope of gaining your assistance in alleviating what has become an unbearable traffic situation at the Outerbridge Crossing. With your depth of knowledge on capital infrastructure improvements, we are optimistic that you will be able to work with us on a dynamic near-term solution for this condition.

We understand that the completion of the Goethals Bridge and re-opening of the Bayonne Bridge will alleviate some of the pressure now placed on the Outerbridge. However, this is a situation that has been compounding for over 20 years as the populations of Staten Island and Middlesex, Somerset and Monmouth Counties have grown. Clearly a new bridge is needed, and we have previously stood with our New Jersey counterparts to ask your agency to begin the required environmental review processes.

Today, we are asking for your consideration for a temporary solution that could be designed and installed much sooner than any replacement bridge. We would like you to evaluate the removal of the existing center median and replacing it with a moveable barrier system, similar to those used regionally on the Verrazano, Whitestone, and Ben Franklin Bridges. For most of the week, operating two lanes in each direction seems to work with minor delays. However, this lane can be deployed to provide three lanes westbound on Friday PM peak hours, and three lanes eastbound Saturday and Sunday PM.

We hope that you will be willing to meet with us at your earliest convenience at Staten Island Borough Hall to discuss this possibility and its feasibility. We will reach out to our New Jersey counterparts to invite them as well. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully Yours,

Joseph C. Borelli
 Council Member
 51st Council District

Daniel M. Donovan
 Member of Congress
 11th District of New York

James S. Oddo
 Borough President
 Staten Island

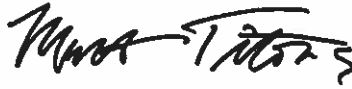
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