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THE COUNCIL
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February 14, 2018

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 in response to the reply we've received to our letter dated October 25, 2017, regarding the proposed zipper barrier to alleviate some of the pressure on the Outerbridge during peak traffic.

We appreciate the comprehensive response from Diannae C. Ehler, the Director of PANYNJ Tunnels, Bridges & Terminals, highlighting the potential issues that could arise from utilizing a zipper barrier since the traffic lanes are so narrow and antiquated. It's unfortunate that we cannot use creative ideas to help peak traffic flow better in the interim while we await construction of a new bridge.

In light of this, we are hopeful that you can provide us with a timeline for beginning a study of the existing bridge structure and the logistics of its replacement. It's an absolutely crucial piece of infrastructure which is well beyond its initially projected life expectancy, and when paired with the fact that the municipality on the New Jersey side of the bridge is harassing and discriminating against Staten Islanders who linger in Perth Amboy, the need for a new bridge, capable of handling the contemporary traffic volume, could not be more urgent.

Respectfully Yours,

Joseph C. Borelli
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 51st Council District

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