

April 13, 2018

Honorable Joseph C. Borelli
NYC Council Member
2955 Veterans Road West, 2E
Staten Island, New York 10309

Dear Councilman Borelli:

I am writing in response to your recent letter regarding the future of the Outerbridge Crossing. The Port Authority recognizes the importance of our facilities on Staten Island as both critical regional infrastructure and part of the fabric of the borough's roadway network. As you know, we have recently invested more than \$3 billion to raise the Bayonne Bridge and replace the Goethals Bridge to increase capacity and provide a greatly improved driving experience for the people of Staten Island.


In response to your specific request for "a timeline for beginning a study of the existing bridge structure and the logistics of its replacement," I am happy to report that the Port Authority Board of Commissioners took an important step in that direction last month. On March 22, the Board approved a \$9.2 million planning authorization for the Outerbridge Crossing – a critical first step in the process that will culminate with the ultimate replacement of the bridge. In all, the Port Authority's current capital plan allocates \$230 million for the Outerbridge Crossing, including not only funding for state of good repair projects but also funding for both the Environmental Impact Study and preliminary design for a new bridge.

The recent board item authorizes a detailed condition assessment, life cycle cost analysis and traffic demand analysis for the bridge. As soon as these analyses are completed, we can provide you with a timeline for the commencement of the preliminary engineering and environmental review processes. A publicly advertised RFP will be issued within the next month for engineering services related to the March 22 authorization.

Also, as mentioned in my earlier letter, we continue to assess cashless tolling at the Outerbridge Crossing and Goethals Bridge based on the direction from Governor Cuomo, potentially bringing benefits to those bridges similar to what we have seen at the Bayonne Bridge.

We will keep your office apprised of the planning efforts mentioned above, the timing of cashless tolling at our facilities and all of our ongoing efforts to improve the driving experience at the Staten Island Bridges.

Sincerely,



Rick Cotton
Executive Director

cc:

Congressman Dan Donovan
Senator Diane Savino
Assemblymember Matthew Titone
Assemblymember Ron Castorina
Councilmember Debi Rose

Senator Andrew Lanza
Assemblymember Michael Cusick
Assemblymember Nicole Malliotakis
Borough President James Oddo
Councilmember Steven Matteo