

July 15, 2016

Mr. Thomas Cocola, SI Borough Commissioner
New York City Department of Transportation
10 Richmond Terrace, Room 300
Staten Island, NY 10301

Re: Ellis Street Road Improvements

Dear Commissioner Cocola:

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing after hearing many constituent concerns raised at the Tottenville Civic Association meeting regarding Ellis Street.

As you know, Ellis Street from Arthur Kill Road to its termination is anything but the sleepy, dead-end road it used to be. While the actual width of the street may have been sufficient in the past, current conditions now cause me to ask that Ellis Street be widened to its full mapped width of 60 feet.

Our research shows all street bed areas are either title vested to the City or private tax lots under DOT control. Additionally, there are no existing encroachments and this effort would not require acquisitions. This improvement would allow for much-needed curbside parking and increased travel lane width.

Already on Ellis Street are popular restaurants and nightspots, a swim club, a busy Italian food market, a dance studio, residences both new and old, a boat yard and marina, a gymnasium, and a seafood storage and distribution facility. Soon to be constructed is a 10,000 square foot catering hall with 52 parking spaces, and a new retail strip at the intersection of Ellis Street and Arthur Kill Road.

I ask that you give this request serious consideration; the convenience and safety benefits redounding to the community would far outweigh the costs. I look forward to hearing from you on this matter.

Sincerely,

James S. Oddo
President, Borough of Staten Island

