

CITY OF NEW YORK
PRESIDENT
OF THE
BOROUGH OF STATEN ISLAND



JAMES S. ODDO
PRESIDENT

BOROUGH HALL, STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. 10301

January 24, 2014

Ms. Lori Ardito
Deputy Commissioner
New York City Department of Transportation
55 Water Street
New York, NY 10041

Dear Deputy Commissioner *Ardito*:

I hope this letter finds you well.

As you are no doubt aware, the snowstorm that occurred this past week caused massive traffic difficulties for all New York City motorists, and with more automobiles per capita than any of the other boroughs, Staten Islanders suffered greatly.

I believe it behooves us to take any and every measure possible to alleviate, as best we can, the traffic jams that such weather causes. To that end, I would like to recommend that during a weather emergency all Select Bus Service lane restrictions be suspended until such time as driving conditions return to normal.

Staten Island residents have a paucity of public transportation options, so every single lane on every major thoroughfare is a precious resource. On Hylan Boulevard, for example, motorists crawled at a snail's pace for hours while Select Bus Service lanes were scarcely used. Had the restrictions been lifted, these lanes could have provided a full 50 percent more lane capacity to ease the congestion.

I urge you to consider taking whatever steps are necessary to establish a protocol to suspend Select Bus lane restrictions during the next weather emergency. I believe this is a fair and common sense approach that will serve to offer suffering motorists some small degree of relief.

Thank you for your time and attention. I look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,


James S. Oddo