

October 20, 2015

The Honorable Bill de Blasio
Mayor, City of New York
City Hall
New York, NY 10007

Re: Roads Through Fresh Kills Park

Dear Mayor de Blasio:

I hope this letter finds you well.

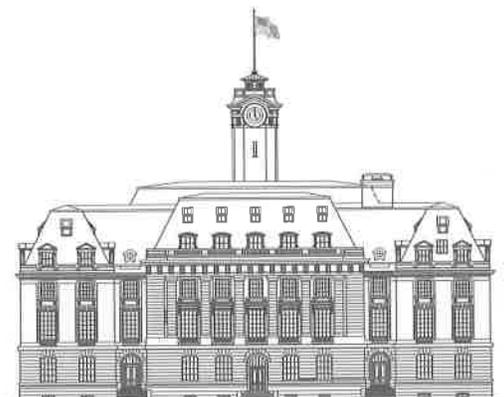
I am writing about an infrastructure project that is vitally important to the future of Staten Island, and to ask for your partnership in making it a reality. I am specifically referring to the long-awaited and long-promised design and completion of the public road system within Freshkills Park. Funding for the full design is one of my top capital priorities, and I ask you to include such funding in the upcoming Preliminary Budget.

Each day Staten Islanders face new traffic challenges that are adversely affecting the quality of life in our borough. With the unprecedented level of private investment and pursuit of additional economic development opportunities on all shores, residents are slowly becoming victims of our own economic boon. Development of the road system at Freshkills would help us alleviate some of our intra-borough traffic, which means the investment I am requesting would directly benefit Staten Islanders for generations.

The Freshkills Park Master Plan envisions a system of transverse roadways to address local and regional traffic concerns, decrease travel time throughout the Park, and optimize access to the Park's future end uses. The road would be an important east-west connector between the already overburdened West Shore Expressway (I-440) and Staten Island Expressway (I-278). It would also complement our Back Roads and Open Spaces initiative, affording local drivers some measure of relief.

Providing access from Richmond Avenue and ultimately from interchanges of the West Shore Expressway will afford the City and private vendors the measure of predictability required to envision successful short and long-term park amenities.

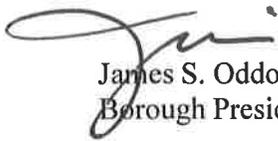
I believe the benefits that will emanate from this endeavor far outweigh the cost, can be realized relatively quickly, and beyond a doubt are worthy of being included in this year's preliminary budget.



Our respective administrations have worked well together, but unfortunately many of the projects on which we are cooperating today may not come to fruition for quite some time. This project, however, is one that you and I can likely enjoy within a few years; perhaps we can ride, as Mayor and Borough President, in the first car that passes over this new public road system.

Again, I urge you to consider putting the monies for this worthwhile project in your preliminary budget. As always, I look forward to working with you on this and all other issues to continue to provide new opportunities for a better quality of life for the residents of the City. Thank you for your kind attention.

Sincerely



James S. Oddo
Borough President

cc: Deputy Mayor Anthony Shorris
cc: Emma Wolfe, Director of Intergovernmental Affairs
cc: Dean A. Fuleihan, Director, Office of Management and Budget

