

May 2, 2018

The Honorable Andrew Cuomo
Governor
New York State Capitol Building
Albany, NY 12224

Re: Request for Funding for Goethals Bridge Ramp

Dear Governor Cuomo:

I hope this letter finds you well.

I am writing to request funding for the preferred roadway access improvements that were recommended by the Port Authority Technical Advisory Committee. These improvements included a ramp to connect the new Goethals Bridge, which is still under construction, to the Matrix Global Logistics Park on Gulf Avenue beneath the bridge, and the Global Container Terminal, which is just north of the bridge structure. This vitally important ramp was being planned to complement the private industrial investment on Staten Island's West Shore and decrease the traffic network hours of delay.

The original proposal also included improving unsafe weaving conditions and vertical clearances under spur railroad bridges, and improving local traffic access. While some funding was originally available for this project, it has since been de-funded.

The Matrix Development Group has already leased 855,000 sf to Amazon for a planned fulfillment center and 975,000 sf to IKEA for a distribution facility. As I am sure you are aware, the Empire State Development Corporation is providing to Amazon \$18 million in state tax credits through the Excelsior Jobs program. Construction of a third warehouse property of 450,000 sf is expected to start this summer, and it is estimated that there will be in excess of \$1 billion dollars of investment by the time all construction on the site is completed. When taken all together, the logistics park has the potential to be the largest employer in Staten Island.

However, should this ramp not be considered, it is easy to imagine to what degree the Staten Island and West Shore Expressways would be impacted, and what might evolve throughout the regional network when the commercial vehicles associated with these huge retail entities are funneled onto local streets from the State Arterial Highways. Of course, the impact on local traffic will be enormous and will deleteriously affect the community's quality of life, potentially compromise pedestrian safety, and negatively impact not only job creation, but other local commerce and modes of public surface transportation.



Governor Cuomo, I cannot stress enough how important it is that this ramp is built to provide direct access to these facilities, and I implore you to make funding available for completing this project the way it was designed.

I would be happy to discuss this with you at any time, and thank you for your kind attention.

Very truly yours,



James S. Oddo
President, Borough of Staten Island

P.S. Gov, great speaking with you last week. Thanks for giving a guy from SI with a "rough lawn" so much time!