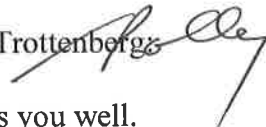


April 7, 2016

The Honorable Polly Trottenberg
Commissioner
NYC Department of Transportation
55 Water Street, 9th Floor
New York, NY 10041

Re: Alternative Staten Island Ferry Destinations

Dear Commissioner Trottenberg 

I hope this letter finds you well.

I recall that during our first meeting shortly after assuming our respective positions, we agreed to “think outside the box” in order to break away from the same old solutions that hampered our predecessors. I believe the accomplishments we have achieved together uniformly stem from exactly that – thinking outside the box.

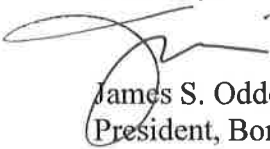
I would like to suggest we do that once again. In order to offer some relief to Staten Island commuters, I am suggesting that it would be valuable to offer Staten Island Ferry riders boarding in St. George a destination other than Whitehall Terminal: perhaps the 34th Street Ferry Terminal or Pier 11 at Wall Street. Far too many commuters are forced to take the Staten Island Railway to the ferry, and then get back on the subway in lower Manhattan. Their only alternative is an express bus that may take as long as two hours to get to mid-town. A four hour commute to and from work is simply unacceptable.

This would be a bold step with many hurdles to clear; I am well aware of that. It may require a new type of ferry operating from St. George, or modifications to the existing terminals on both sides. Whatever is required, however, I believe we should study the issue, determine the feasibility and estimate the cost of implementation. Unless it is functionally impossible, I think if we pool our resources we can get this done.

This could be a game changer for Staten Island commuters, among the most put-upon in the nation. We owe it to them to at least explore the possibilities.

Thank you for your consideration, and I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,


James S. Oddo
President, Borough of Staten Island

