

September 27, 2017

The Honorable Andrew Cuomo
Governor
NYS Capitol Building
Albany, NY 12224

Re: Expansion of the Staten Island Expressway HOV Lane

Dear Governor Cuomo:

I hope this letter finds you well.

I recently had the opportunity for the first time to utilize the new Gowanus PM HOV lane to Staten Island. "Wow," is the best word to use about the experience. It shaved at least twenty minutes off the trip, and its connection to the new Verrazano HOV and then the Staten Island Expressway (SIE) HOV was seamless.

It demonstrated the power of HOV lanes to help us alleviate some of the symptoms of our ongoing and worsening "commuting crisis."

I thank your Administration for its commitment to that project that is already paying dividends.

I write now to ask that you consider directing State DOT to immediately begin the process of designing the completion of the SIE HOV lane so that it also connects with the new Goethals Bridge. The current configuration forces HOV traffic to merge back into regular lanes of traffic and contributes to our traffic situation on the SIE.

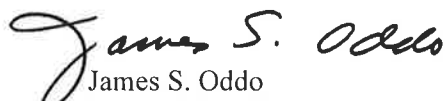
Although the term "shovel ready" isn't as ubiquitous as it was a few years ago, I believe it is essential that we have a "shovel ready" project ready completing the HOV lane ready to go if new federal or state infrastructure programs are announced in the future. Being proactive on this issue is simply good policy.

During the summer I hosted a meeting at Borough Hall that included all relevant city and state agencies to discuss our "commuting crisis" and potential fixes. Representatives of State DOT and your office were present at the meeting, and agreed to look into this request and determine the cost to complete this design.

I ask that you help expedite this review so that the design to produce a "shovel ready" project can begin.

As always, I thank you for your time, courtesy, and consideration.

Very truly yours,


James S. Oddo
Borough President

cc: Matthew Driscoll, Commissioner, New York State DOT

