

August 20, 2018

The Honorable James Kenney
Mayor of the City of Philadelphia
City Hall, Office 215
Philadelphia, PA 19107

Dear Mayor Kenney;

I hope this letter finds you well.

As I stated in a letter to you this past March, I read an article about how your city is revising - or by now has revised - its regulations requiring utilities to mill and resurface traffic lanes after trenching. As President of the most automobile-dependent borough of the city of New York, Staten Island, I have been a strong advocate for stricter regulations as they relate to street restorations.

I have had some success in making changes, thanks to the cooperation of Mayor Bill de Blasio and his team. First and foremost, we have formed a Street Cuts Policy Working Group consisting of all NYC capital agencies, including the Department of Transportation (DOT), the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and the Department of Design and Construction (DDC). They will meet once a month with senior representatives from utility companies to share plans and coordinate work. This group focuses on maintaining New York's policy of strongly discouraging any street cuts in the first two years after a street is repaved by DOT.

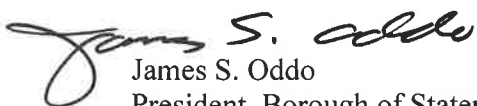
We are also instituting a new pilot program, in which DEP will coordinate the inspection and repair of its manholes and catch basins with DOT's paving schedule. After a roadway is milled but before it is re-paved, DEP crews will inspect the manholes and catch basins and make whatever repairs are necessary. The DEP will also be vigilantly inspecting their restorations.

National Grid, the utility that provides most of New York's natural gas, has shared with the City its comprehensive multi-year capital plan. This will allow for improved coordination between Nat Grid and all City agencies, making cutting into protected streets a less frequent occurrence.

I am still very much interested in the progress of your great city's revised regulations; what has worked and what has not, so that I might propose similar revisions to Mayor de Blasio. To that end, I once again request that, if possible, a member of your staff contact my Senior Advisor, Frank Santarpia, who can be reached at fsantarpia@statenislандusa.com, to perhaps begin a dialogue.

Thank you so much for your kind attention and consideration, and I hope that in the future we might have an opportunity to chat face to face.

Sincerely,


James S. Oddo
President, Borough of Staten Island

