

July 11, 2014

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

Dear Mayor de Blasio:

We hope this letter finds you well.

We write to ask for your assistance with an important matter that is vitally important to improving the flow of traffic on the South Shore of Staten Island. Specifically, we ask that you help us ensure that the capital funding for the widening of Arthur Kill Road between Clarke Avenue and Richmond Avenue is moved from the currently planned FY 2024 to FY 2016.

Here is a bit of history on this convoluted project. The City owns the right of way on this stretch of road because most of the widening is on the future Brookfield Park side of the road. The proposal, initially conceived in 2006, was originally a four-phase project that would have stretched from Clarke Avenue all the way to the Outerbridge Crossing, an 8-mile stretch of winding roadway that only has a single lane in each direction. Since the scope of the original project was so large and the City owned the right of way only for Phase 1, a full EIS was required. The New York City Department of Design and Construction (DDC) began preliminary design work and conducted preliminary activities to begin the EIS, but the project was then pushed out to FY 2024 by the previous Administration.

Last year, we met with the former DOT Commissioner and asked for the removal of the final three phases of the project so that we could proceed with the first phase with an EAS instead of an EIS. She agreed with this request and also agreed to attempt to move the funding for Phase 1 back to FY 2016. Unfortunately, the funding was never moved back to FY 2016. We are unsure if OMB vetoed the request or if the request was never actually made.

We were recently assured by Commissioner Trottenberg that DOT supports moving it back to FY 2016 and is attempting to get the project in the January Capital Plan. We are thankful for Commissioner Trottenberg's support on this important issue.

