

November 15, 2017

Ms. Sonia Pichardo
Regional Director
New York State Department of Transportation
Hunters Point Plaza
47-40 21st Street
Long Island City, NY 11101

Re: Study to Extend Westbound HOVL on Staten Island Expressway

Dear Director Pichardo:

I hope this letter finds you well.

On October 27th, 2017, you responded to my request for a study to extend the termination point of the westbound High Occupancy Vehicle Lane ("HOVL") on the Staten Island Expressway ("SIE"). However, I believe that my original letter was unclear, since your response (enclosed) informed me that there was no reason to change the location of the starting point of the eastbound SIE HOVL at Victory Boulevard. I completely understand and agree with that assessment.

However, my concern is with the termination of the westbound HOVL. Currently, the westbound HOVL lane merges back into regular traffic near Exit 10 (Victory Boulevard), creating a bottleneck which often causes heavy delays for miles. What I am requesting is that your agency design an extension of the westbound HOVL from its current termination point all the way to the westbound Goethals Bridge.

I make this request with the understanding that there is no immediate expectation for the westbound-only extension to be built. However, by having the design work completed we will have created "shovel ready" status for the project, allowing us to take advantage of any future infrastructure funds that may become available, as they did when President Obama signed into law the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

I hope this clears up this misunderstanding, and I would be happy to meet with you to discuss it further. Thank you for your kind attention.

Sincerely,

James S. Oddo
President, Borough of Staten Island

