



MICHAEL REILLY
Assemblyman 62nd District

THE ASSEMBLY
STATE OF NEW YORK
ALBANY

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April 17, 2019

Hon. Polly Trottenberg
Commissioner,
NYC Department of Transportation
55 Waters Street,
New York, NY 10041

Dear Commissioner Trottenberg:

I am writing to you today to share a serious concern that I and many of my constituents have regarding the Richmond Avenue bus lane in the Eltingville section of my district. As you know, this bus lane was one of several created between 2011 and 2012 to provide faster bus service in certain parts of Staten Island. It has been since then that I have advocated against the Eltingville section of the Richmond Avenue bus lane – which stretches for over a quarter mile from Shirley Avenue onto Hylan Boulevard – because I believe it has narrowed the travel lanes to such an unsafe width that it has created a potential hazard. As a matter of fact, just this morning there was a serious accident involving a bus and another vehicle, the two of which had a head-on collision. On one hand, we should be lucky that the extent of the damage was a totaled vehicle and some minor injuries – on the other hand, this is extremely unacceptable and exactly the type of accident I have warned about for some time. This is not the only accident which could be a result of the narrow travel lanes though, and I would be more than happy to provide your team with local news stories that have covered the several accidents which have occurred on this portion of Richmond Avenue in recent years.

Many of us have witnessed buses not using the dedicated lane in the first place, which combined with the narrow lanes and the curvature of this portion of Richmond Avenue makes it all the more dangerous. I am respectfully requesting that your office consider removing the bus lane from this portion of Richmond Avenue and restoring the road markings to accommodate one lane of traffic in each direction, separated by a stripped median, and also preserving the existing parking lanes. I believe that by doing this, much of the concern that my constituents and I share will be alleviated.

I appreciate your consideration of my request and I look forward to hearing from you soon. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact my office at (718) 967-5194.

Yours in Service,

Michael Reilly
Member of Assembly
62nd District