



Transportation Update from Assemblyman Michael Cusick



WINTER 2017

Dear Neighbor:

I am pleased to present to you this newsletter containing information regarding transportation on Staten Island. Transportation plays a vital part in regards to our quality of life here on Staten Island. Please take a moment to review this newsletter as it contains useful information regarding transportation studies, E-ZPass alert system, and other toll relief programs available to you.

As your representative in Albany, I have continuously advocated to ensure that essential transportation services and toll relief programs for Staten Islanders are kept intact. Even as Albany continues to tighten its belt, rest assured that I will continue to be a tireless advocate for my constituents.

Should you have any questions about the programs listed or any other topic, please feel free to contact my office at 718-370-1384, or by email at cusickm@nyassembly.gov. My office is always available to help in any way we can.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Cusick
Member of Assembly
District 63



Preserving the Staten Island Resident Discount on the Verrazano-Narrows Bridge



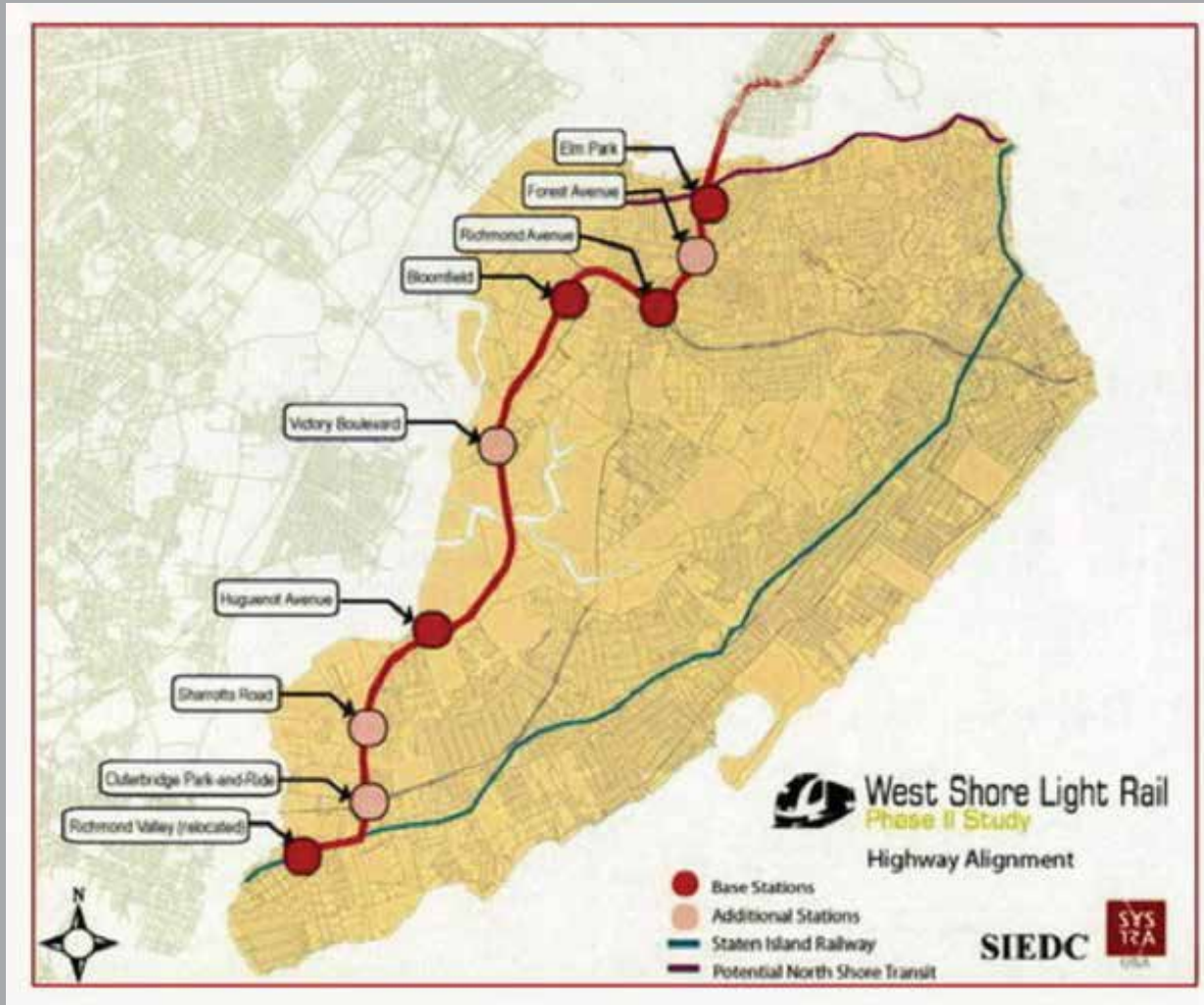
In the 2017 Executive budget, I fought to ensure the continuance of the essential toll relief on the Verrazano-Narrows Bridge for Staten Island residents and commercial drivers with New York State E-ZPass tags. The final 2017-18 budget agreement included \$10.3 million in funding, as well as an additional \$3.5 million to completely offset what would have been an additional rate hike. The Staten Island resident rate is \$5.50 per crossing with E-ZPass and the commercial discount will remain intact. Senator Andrew Lanza and I have successfully negotiated this deal with the Governor's Office and respective leaders in each house and were assisted this year with funding from Senator Diane Savino.

Sign Up for Goethals, Bayonne, and Outerbridge Crossing Toll Relief

Currently, the cash toll on at the Goethals, Bayonne, and Outerbridge crossings stands at \$15. Senator Lanza and I have constructed a plan which allows for E-ZPass holders to receive a reduced toll on their third round trip over New Jersey, within a calendar month time frame. Once an E-ZPass holder takes their third trip, the first two trips will be rolled back to \$6.25 toll cost, helping Staten Islanders to save on travel costs. Staten Islanders who want to participate in the three-trip plan must sign-up for the program. In order to do so, please visit panynj.gov, visit the NY E-ZPass Customer Service Center in Travis, or call E-ZPass at (800) 333-8655.

TRANSPORTATION UPDATE

West Shore Light Rail

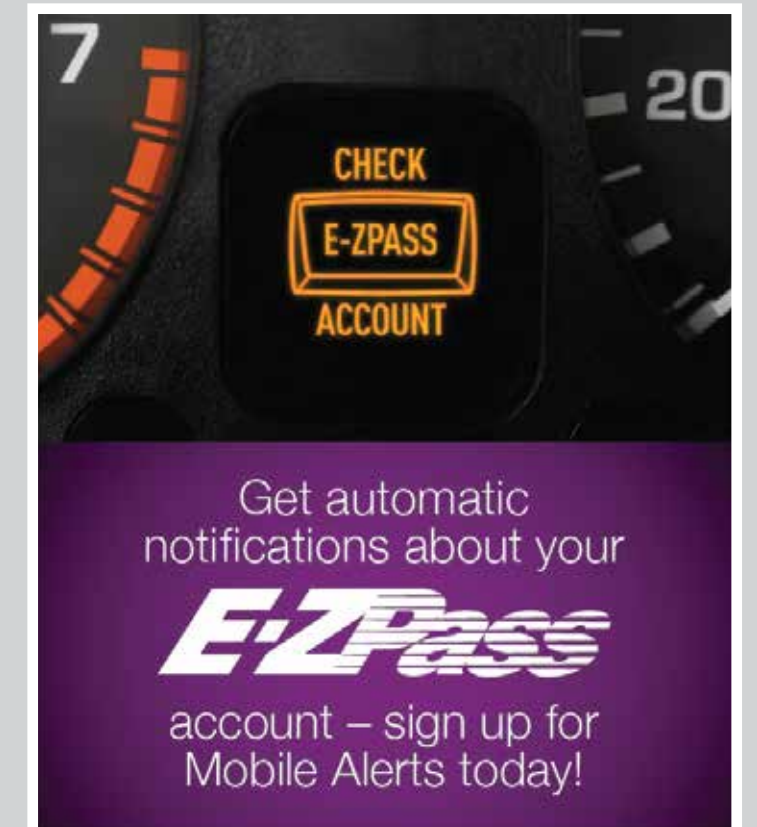


Last year during budget negotiations, Senator Lanza and I obtained a commitment from the MTA for a study of a West Shore Light Rail as another means of transportation for Staten Islanders. This year, the MTA followed through on their commitment with the inclusion of \$4 million in their proposed Capital Plan. This is an important step forward in determining the feasibility of this project.

E-ZPass Alerts Program

With the new cashless tolls on the Verrazano-Narrows Bridge, it has come to my attention that constituents have received violations on their accounts due to low balance. In order to alleviate some of these issues, I have provided some information on how E-ZPass customers can track their accounts and avoid having to pay fines. Customers must monitor their account and replenish their account when needed.

To manage your E-ZPass account, you can sign-up for mobile alerts. You will receive a text message whenever something important occurs on your account, such as low balance. To sign up, log in to your account at ezpassny.com, select "Account Profile," then "Edit" in the Account Holder Information section, enter your cell phone number, accept the Terms and Conditions, and opt-in to "Mobile Alerts" or "E-mail Alerts." You can also call E-ZPass Customer Service at 1-800-333-8655 to sign-up for email/mobile alerts.



Update on Construction of the Goethals Bridge



As you know, the Goethals Bridge will have a second span, which is scheduled to be fully constructed by June of 2018. The new Goethals Bridge span will have four 11-foot lanes, plus narrow shoulders. The new span is approximately 10 feet wider than the old bridge. To keep up-to-date with the progress of the bridge, visit <http://www.panynj.gov/bridges-tunnels/goethals-bridge-replacement.html>.

Opening of the Westbound HOV/Bus Lane on the Verrazano-Narrows Bridge

On September 5th, westbound on the Verrazano-Narrows Bridge Upper Level, the HOV/Bus lane opened. The lane operates in connection with the State's Gowanus/BQE new westbound operation in Brooklyn. The westbound HOV/Bus lane allows for a seamless route from Manhattan to Staten Island, which minimizes travel time for Staten Islanders commuting to the borough during afternoon rush hour. The eastbound HOV/Bus operation over the Verrazano-Narrows Bridge started on June 22nd, and travel time has been reduced for morning commutes due to that lane.



Go Smart NYC

Earlier this year, the New York City Department of Transportation launched their Go Smart NYC program on Staten Island. This program works to promote travelers to leave their vehicles at home and utilize other means of transportation, such as biking and using public transportation. Staten Island residents who use this program will receive discounts at local businesses. Any Staten Island resident can participate in the program by signing up online at www.LetsGoSmart.nyc and order a free, personalized travel toolkit to document your traveling information.



TRANSPORTATION SURVEY



It is important to hear from my constituents regarding issues that will affect them. As you may have seen in the news, multiple ideas have been raised on how to fund the MTA. In order for me to understand the wants and needs of my constituents, I would like to know how you would want MTA and transportation projects funded in New York City. **Check one** of the below options and mail this bottom portion to my district office:

- Millionaire's Tax**
- Congestion Pricing**
- Move New York Proposal/ A.9633-B: Establishes tolling of all east river bridges at the same price.**

Other: _____

MAIL SURVEY TO:
1911 Richmond Avenue • Staten Island, NY 10314



New York State Assembly • Albany, New York 12248



Assemblyman
Michael Cusick
Transportation UPDATE

WINTER 2017

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UNCLAIMED MONEY

The New York State Office of the Comptroller may have money that belongs to you! There is over \$15 billion of unclaimed money from bank accounts, stocks, and bonds, utility deposits, income tax refunds, and inheritances to name a few. To see if New York State has money that belongs to you go to the Comptroller's website (www.osc.state.ny.us) and click on "Unclaimed Funds."