

THE SENATE  
STATE OF NEW YORK



**TONY AVELLA**  
**SENATOR, 11TH DISTRICT**

ASSISTANT CONFERENCE LEADER  
FOR POLICY & ADMINISTRATION OF THE  
INDEPENDENT DEMOCRATIC CONFERENCE

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March 25, 2015

Mr. Thomas Prendergast  
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer  
Metropolitan Transportation Authority  
2 Broadway  
New York, NY 10004

**Fax and Mail**

**Immediate Attention Required**

Dear Mr. Prendergast:

I am writing to you regarding the ongoing construction on the Whitestone Bridge/Expressway, which involved the closure of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue exit for more than two years.

My staff was advised last year that the 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue Exit would be reopened in January. Unfortunately, that did not occur and my office has received several different timetables for a new opening date.

This closure has caused a multitude of traffic problems for the residents of Queens and has led to serious congestion in the residential neighborhoods of Whitestone and College Point, where traffic is being rerouted in the interim.

While I understand that it was necessary to close this exit ramp in order to perform the needed work, it is simply unacceptable that your agency has continued to delay the opening. Although this was an unusually bad winter, which I am sure slowed construction, it does not excuse the lack of a firm revised timetable.

Under the circumstances, I would appreciate your reviewing this matter and letting me know once and for all when the 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue exit will finally be reopened to the public.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tony Avella".

Tony Avella  
Senator  
11<sup>th</sup> Senatorial District

TA: kd