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May 23, 2014

Hon. Gregory W. Meeks
Congressman
United States Congress
NYS 5th Congressional District Office
153-01 Jamaica Avenue 2nd floor
Jamaica, NY 11432

Re: Federal Funding for Nassau Expressway

Dear Congressman Meeks;

Once again I must thank you for responding to my initial letter regarding the dire condition of Nassau Expressway. The New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) has delayed construction of phase one and two until fall 2023 and 2027, respectively. It is imperative for us to work together to make the overall project a priority. Having your support to obtain Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) funding could be the catalyst to get this project prioritized.

As per your request during our last phone conversation, I am providing the "Nassau Expressway (NY 878) Operational Improvement" summaries from the NYSDOT website. The estimated cost of phase one is \$24.9 million. Phase two is approximately \$36.1 million.

The longer it takes for construction to commence, the road will become more treacherous for thousands of drivers who rely on the Expressway daily and the costs to repair it will escalate. As long as the roadway continues to deteriorate, the types of repairs and improvements needed to make the road safe for daily and emergency evacuation purposes will be more intricate. It is foreseeable that the start and completion dates will be extended as well.

The unpredictability of weather patterns in our region necessitates swift action. Your advocacy in Congress would provide greater attention to the Nassau Expressway and its importance as a costal evacuation route for at least 400,000 people. Making sure the roadway is safe and operational for use during a natural disaster should be a local and national security concern.

I look forward to continuing our efforts to make this project a priority. Please do not hesitate to contact me with your advice and ideas.

Warmest Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carrié Solages".

Nassau County Legislator, 3rd District

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