

RANKING MINORITY MEMBER

CONSUMER PROTECTION  
MENTAL HEALTH

COMMITTEE MEMBER

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION  
JUDICIARY  
WOMEN'S ISSUES

THE SENATE  
STATE OF NEW YORK



SENATOR  
**PATRICIA M. CANZONERI-FITZPATRICK**  
9<sup>TH</sup> SENATE DISTRICT

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January 22, 2024

Ms. Marie Therese Dominguez, Commissioner  
NYSDOT Main Office  
50 Wolf Road  
Albany, NY 12232

Dear Commissioner Dominguez,

I am writing to request information regarding the status of the New York State Department of Transportation's \$250,000 study aimed at examining the feasibility of replacing the Loop Parkway drawbridge. Specifically, I would like to know if the study has been completed and when the report from the study will be available for review. As the State Senator representing the 9th district and an advocate for our community, I remain committed to staying informed about crucial projects that impact the well-being and safety of our residents.

In May of 2022, *Newsday* published an article stating that NYS DOT had begun studying replacing the drawbridge, which serves a vital role to my constituents in the barrier island communities of Long Beach, Lido Beach, Point Lookout, and Atlantic Beach. The Loop Parkway and the condition of its drawbridge directly impacts the safety and convenience of the residents and commuters in our area. As this study has garnered substantial attention and funding through the allocated study budget, I am eager to stay informed about its progress.

Over the past few years, there has been recurring construction on the bridge, resulting in the reduction of travel lanes to one lane in each direction. This has led to traffic delays and serious accidents, inconveniencing drivers leaving and returning to the aforementioned areas. Furthermore, the drawbridge has been observed to malfunction—getting stuck in an open position for extended periods—causing significant traffic and prompting emergency construction activities.

The lack of predictability surrounding these incidents is particularly disconcerting, creating frustration for residents due to the limited access points to and from Point Lookout, Lido Beach and the surrounding communities. In addition to the inconvenience, there is a heightened concern regarding the impact on public health, especially in emergency situations where prompt access to these communities by emergency vehicles is paramount. The current situation, characterized by uncertainty surrounding the operational status of the bridge, is untenable for residents. This has compelled individuals to resort to social media inquiries for real-time updates before departing or returning, a practice that is not sustainable for many of my constituents.

By assessing the structural integrity, maintenance needs, and potential technical shortcomings, the feasibility study offers a strategic roadmap for effective intervention and necessary improvements. This meticulous examination not only aids in understanding the current challenges, but also enables experts to forecast potential issues that may arise in the future, thus facilitating a proactive approach to infrastructure management.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I look forward to receiving your response and appreciate your efforts in keeping our community safe and well-connected.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Patricia M. Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "P" and "M".

Patricia M. Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick  
State Senator, District 9