



U.S. House of Representatives



NYS Legislature



NYC Council

February 23, 2016

Joseph H. Boardman  
President and CEO  
Amtrak (National Railroad Passenger Corporation)  
60 Massachusetts Ave NE  
Washington, DC 20002

Dear President Boardman,

We would like to draw your attention to an iconic piece of Amtrak's infrastructure in New York City: the Hell Gate Bridge. September 30<sup>th</sup> of this year will mark the centennial anniversary of the bridge's completion, and it is our sincerest hope that the structure will enter into the next hundred years of its life in a fashion befitting its status. While to tourists and those outside New York, the lesser-known Hell Gate is often overshadowed by other historic bridges, for the communities we represent in Queens, it is difficult to overstate the bridge's cultural, historical, and architectural significance, which extends even to the world stage.

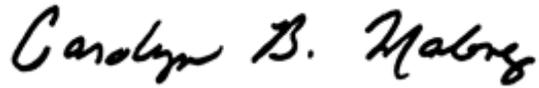
Designed by Gustav Lindenthal and Henry Hornbostel, Hell Gate is widely regarded as the most durable of New York City's bridges. It is projected to last 1,000 years, over three times the estimated lifespan of its more charismatic suspension bridge brethren. Its elegant silhouette served as the inspiration for the famed Sydney Harbor Bridge, and it was one of only a handful of domestic structures considered so essential that Nazi forces plotted its destruction during World War II.

Yet, despite its superior design and historic significance, the Hell Gate Bridge has been allowed to take on an unbecoming appearance. As you are surely aware, the bridge has not been repainted since the 1990s, and stands today covered in a patchwork of pink, beige, and brown. Given the significance of this year in the history of the bridge, and Queens's burgeoning identity as a premier tourist destination, we believe that the time is right to turn Hell Gate into another jewel adorning New York City's waterfront. A fresh, uniform coat of paint is long overdue, and would go a great way toward ensuring that this important structure does not fall into further disrepair. We appreciate your attention to this matter and look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,



Joseph Crowley  
Member of Congress



Carolyn B. Maloney  
Member of Congress



Michael Gianaris  
Member of New York State Senate



Aravella Simotas  
Member of New York State Assembly



Costa Constantinides  
Member of New York City Council