

**Alida Camp
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**The City of New York
Community Board 8 Manhattan**

January 24, 2020

Polly Trottenberg
Commissioner, NYC Department of Transportation
55 Water Street, 9th Floor
42 Broadway
New York, New York 10041

RE: Discussion of a proposal to convert the South Outer Roadway of the Queensboro Bridge to an ADA Accessible Pedestrian Path

Dear Commissioner Trottenberg,

At the Full Board meeting of Community Board 8 Manhattan held on January 22, 2020, the board **approved** the following resolution by a vote of 34 in favor, 4 opposed, 1 abstention, and 0 not voting for cause.

WHEREAS; the north outer roadway of the Queensboro Bridge is currently a dual bicycle and pedestrian pathway that provides a substandard 6 total feet of space for bicycles traveling in both directions; and

WHEREAS; current design standards for 2-way bikeways call for 8-feet in width; and

WHEREAS; the existing pedestrian lane does not meet the standards mandated under the Americans with Disabilities Act; and

WHEREAS; pedestrian space on the bridge is limited to 4-feet in width, which creates a sense of danger for pedestrians sharing the roadway with faster moving bicycles; and

WHEREAS; existing safety issues on the bike/pedestrian roadway require immediate attention to reduce risks to persons currently using the bridge to walk or bike; and

WHEREAS; the upcoming rehabilitation of the upper roadway will result in operational changes on the bridge and provide opportunities to assess impacts of changes to the road network; and

WHEREAS; vehicular traffic has declined in recent years on the Queensboro Bridge; and

WHEREAS; increased development and employment activity in Long Island City has resulted in significant increases in bicycle trips across the Queensboro Bridge; and

WHEREAS; the upcoming introduction of congestion pricing may further result in decreased vehicular traffic and may encourage more bicycling between Manhattan and Queens; and

WHEREAS; eliminating vehicular traffic on the south outer roadway of the Queensboro Bridge would allow bicyclists and pedestrians to each have a dedicated roadway that would meet current design guidelines, including ADA requirements for pedestrians;


THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Community Board 8 requests that NYCDOT conduct a study of the proposal to eliminate vehicular traffic on the south outer roadway of the Queensboro Bridge and convert it to a dedicated ADA accessible pedestrian walkway or bicycle route; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Community Board 8 requests that NYCDOT complete this study as soon as possible, and conduct it in conjunction with the soon to commence project to rehabilitate the upper roadway of the Queensboro Bridge; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Community Board 8 requests NYCDOT assess opportunities to provide safer and improved pedestrian amenities on the Queensboro Bridge that can be implemented in a short-term timeframe prior to any potential future closure of the south outer roadway to vehicular traffic.

Sincerely,


Alida Camp
Chair


Craig Lader and Charles Warren
Co-Chairs, Transportation Committee

cc: Honorable Bill de Blasio, Mayor of the City of New York
Honorable Carolyn Maloney, 12th Congressional District Representative
Honorable Gale Brewer, Manhattan Borough President
Honorable Liz Krueger, NYS Senator, 28th Senatorial District
Honorable Dan Quart, NYS Assembly Member, 73rd Assembly District
Honorable Rebecca Seawright, NYS Assembly Member 76th Assembly District
Honorable Ben Kallos, NYC Council Member, 5th Council District
Honorable Keith Powers, NYC Council Member, 4th Council District