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Gale A. Brewer, Borough President

November 21, 2019

Polly Trottenberg
Commissioner
New York City Department of Transportation
55 Water Street
New York, NY 10041

Dear Commissioner Trottenberg,

I write to support the proposal to improve cycling and walking conditions on the Queensboro Bridge by converting the South Outer Roadway into an ADA-accessible pedestrian-only path and converting the North Outer Roadway to a bicycle-only path.

Total vehicle traffic on the Queensboro Bridge dropped 8.5 percent between 2006 and 2016 according to your agency's own data while bicycle ridership over the bridge has rapidly risen. These are good trends for our city if we are to continue to try and combat congestion and improve sustainable transportation options. It is my hope and expectation that these trends will continue following the introduction of congestion pricing in 2021, as was seen in partner cities such as London and Stockholm.

However, in order to fully achieve these trends seen in other cities, we must invest in safe and comfortable bicycle infrastructure like the aforementioned cities did in anticipation of congestion pricing's roll-out. As I have long said, if we are to increase charges for one transportation option, we should improve others to make any transitions as seamless as possible. And as the city's population continues to increase, especially in Long Island City, and we require more inter-borough travel, we must do what we can to ensure that that these travel patterns are achieved through sustainable modes.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter. Should you have any questions or follow-up, please contact my office at 212-669-8300.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gale A. Brewer".

Gale A. Brewer
Manhattan Borough President

cc: Ed Pincar Jr., Manhattan Borough Commissioner, NYC DOT
Will Brightbill, District Manager, Community Board 8