



October 28, 2022

Honorable Julie Won  
Council Member, 26<sup>th</sup> District  
47-01 Queens Boulevard Suite 205  
Sunnyside, NY 11104

Honorable Julie Menin  
Council Member, 5<sup>th</sup> District  
250 Broadway, Suite 1807  
New York, NY 10007

Honorable Selvena Brooks-Powers  
Council Member, 31<sup>st</sup> District  
1931 Mott Avenue, Suite 410  
Far Rockaway, NY 11691

Dear Council Members Won, Menin, and Brooks-Powers:

Thank you for your September 14, 2022 correspondence that you addressed to Deputy Commissioner of Bridges Paul Schwartz noting your concerns about current conditions and future work at the Queensboro Bridge, specifically regarding safety improvements on the South Outer Roadway (SOR). I apologize for the delayed response.

The NYC Department of Transportation (DOT) is committed to providing all New Yorkers with a safe, efficient, and reliable transportation network. I certainly understand the concerns you have raised thus far, and I would like to take this opportunity to provide you with an update.

As you recall, DOT met with you on-site with DC Schwartz, Manhattan Borough Commissioner Edward Pincar and Queens Borough Commissioner Nicole Garcia and did a walk-through of the bridge on September 12, 2022. We are aware of the concerns you have raised since this meeting, and we are working with our associated operational groups to address these concerns.

DOT is committed to making Queensboro Bridge even more cyclist and pedestrian friendly by providing designated space for each mode use. However, we are mindful of the increased traffic delays the conversion of the SOR to a pedestrian-only path would have while the QB10 contract (Upper Deck Replacement Project) is live. As we discussed during the on-site, the SOR conversion to pedestrian walkway during the QB10 project will result in major traffic delays to the Manhattan grid network. During weekdays, there will be extensive queuing throughout the day (~8,000 additional vehicles in queue at 11pm waiting to go to Queens). During weekends, there will be extensive queuing in the evenings (~3,300 additional vehicles in queue at 12am waiting to go to Queens).



Given the unique conditions of this century-old bridge and the ongoing construction effort, DOT feels that the north outer roadway is appropriately designed. In the meantime, to address the condition of the North Outer Roadway (NOR), DOT has posted additional signage and we are working with the Police Department (NYPD) to focus enforcement on vehicles not allowed to use this pedestrian pathway, like mopeds.

Active construction on the upper roadway will continue through 2023, with fence installation scheduled to begin in the middle of next year. We anticipate the South Outer Roadway will be open by the end of 2023. DOT will continue working to identify opportunities to expedite this timeline, and will monitor construction on the bridge and address any issues in the interim.

DOT appreciates you taking the time to write. I look forward to working with you to improve the lives of your constituents.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nicole Garcia".

Nicole Garcia  
Queens Borough Commissioner

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Edward F. Pincar Jr.".

Edward F. Pincar Jr.  
Manhattan Borough Commissioner

DOT-565519-V5Q