

ELECTED SUPPORT

May 10, 2016

Commissioner Matthew J. Driscoll
New York State Department of Transportation
50 Wolf Road
Albany, NY 12232



Dear Commissioner Driscoll:

We write to ask that the State contribute 38% of the total estimated cost for the Brooklyn Queens Expressway (BQE) Bridge reconstruction project on Interstate 278 (I-278). This funding is necessary for the rehabilitation, reconstruction, and replacement of 1.5 miles of the BQE from Atlantic Avenue to Sands Street.

The BQE is a vital connection for the New York City metropolitan area, carrying more than 190,000 vehicles per day. The 1.5 miles between Atlantic Ave. and Sands St. is supported by 21 bridges and a 0.4 mile portion is comprised of a Triple Cantilever structure. According to NYCDOT, the total estimated cost of the project is \$1.7 billion. A 38% contribution would cover \$659 million of this cost. This contribution level would be consistent with what NYCDOT has said the State has traditionally funded for construction work on City-owned portions of the highway system in New York City, including the Belt Parkway over the Ocean Parkway project, and for protection of the FDR Drive against marine borers.

The City and State have already invested billions of dollars in other portions of the BQE, including the Kosciuszko Bridge. This section of the BQE, as described by NYSDOT, "is a critical link of I-278, which is the sole interstate facility in Brooklyn connecting the Robert Kennedy Memorial Bridge (previously named the Triborough Bridge), the Bronx and other points to the east, and the Gowanus Expressway, Staten Island, New Jersey and other points to the west." Comprehensive investment, including in this portion, is critical to ensuring the BQE can continue to serve New Yorkers as it has done for decades.

We believe the State should contribute to the cost for reconstruction of this portion of the BQE. Thank you for your attention to this matter. Please contact Senator Squadron's office at 718-875-1517 or squadron@nysenate.gov with any questions.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Daniel Squadron in black ink.

Daniel Squadron
State Senator

Handwritten signature of Martin Malavé Dilan in black ink.

Martin Malavé Dilan
State Senator

Handwritten signature of Martin Golden in black ink.

Martin Golden
State Senator

Handwritten signature of Roxanne J. Persaud in black ink.

Roxanne J. Persaud
State Senator

Handwritten signature of Jesse Hamilton in black ink.

Jesse Hamilton
State Senator

Handwritten signature of Velmanette Montgomery in black ink.

Velmanette Montgomery
State Senator

Handwritten signature of Kevin Parker in black ink.

Kevin Parker
State Senator

Handwritten signature of Diane Savino in black ink.

Diane Savino
State Senator