



Donovan Richards
Queens Borough President

Community Board No. 2

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Anatole Ashraf
Chairperson

May 12, 2026

The Honorable Kathy Hochul
Governor of New York State
NYS Capitol Building
Albany, NY 12224

The Honorable Zohran Mamdani
Mayor of the City of New York
City Hall
New York, NY 10007

RE: QueensLink Initiative

At the May 7, 2026, Queens Community Board 2 meeting, with a quorum present, a motion was made and seconded to support the Queenslink Initiative. The motion passed by a vote of 35 in favor and two in opposition.

The motion consisted of the following:

WHEREAS Community Board 2 will need additional transit capacity in anticipation of the 14,700 new homes and 14,400 jobs expected to result from the OneLIC rezoning;

WHEREAS Community Board 2 currently has poor access to large-scale open spaces like Forest Park and Rockaway Beach;

WHEREAS Community Board 2 is largely cut off from the southeastern portion of our own Borough;

WHEREAS a disproportionate amount of automobile traffic flows through Community Board 2 from neighborhoods without mass transit options, making our roads more dangerous and our air and environment more polluted;

WHEREAS a 2019 MTA Feasibility study found that reactivating the Rockaway Beach Branch was feasible, including space for new parks;

“Serving the Communities of Long Island City, Sunnyside, Woodside, and Maspeth”

WHEREAS a 2025 NYU ridership study found that rail reactivation would free up capacity on the Queens Blvd Line, allowing G train service to be restored to Forest Hills and M train service to be extended to Rockaway Beach;

WHEREAS this additional service is anticipated to attract over 75,000 riders per day and produce over \$9 billion in total economic output;

WHEREAS Mayor Mamdani (as a former Assembly Member), Queens Borough President Richards, Assembly Member Valdez, Senators Gonzalez and Gianaris and many more elected officials all support advancing the QueensLink Proposal; and

WHEREAS the 5-acre, \$43 million QueensWay Metropolitan Hub park has been designed so that adding transit would require destroying the park, thus wasting needed public funds and causing unnecessary strain on the community; now therefore be it

RESOLVED that Queens Community Board 2 supports the advancement of the QueensLink Proposal, and requests that DPR, EDC, and the Mayor pause development of the QueensWay Metropolitan Hub park to convene a City/State interagency committee, with direct community representation, to review how to design the RBB corridor with parks and rail transit for the benefit of Queens and New York City and State, and ensure that the QueensLink subway extension with parks is included in the MTA's 2030–2034 Capital Plan.

Sincerely,



Anatole Ashraf
Chairperson, CB2



Reilly Owens
Chair, Transportation Committee

Cc: Hon. Grace Meng, US Congress
Hon. Nydia Velazquez, US Congress
Hon. Michael Gianaris, NYS Senate
Hon. Kristen Gonzalez, NYS Senate
Hon. Kathy Hochul, NYS Governor
Hon. Steven Raga, NYS Assembly
Hon. Claire Valdez, NYS Assembly
Hon. Julie Won, NYC Council
Hon. Shekar Krishnan, NYC Council Member
Hon. Donovan Richards, Queens Borough President
Minelly De Co, Deputy Director of Infrastructure for New York
Emma Vadehra, Policy Director, Office of governor

Elle Bisgaard-Church, Chief of staff, Office of the mayor
Julie Su, Deputy Mayor for Economic Justice
Tascha van Auken, Commissioner of Mayor's Office of Mass Engagement
Annie Levers, Director of Mayor's Office of Operations
Mikelle Adgate, COS to Director of Mayor's Office of Operations
Jacqueline Langsam, NYC Parks Borough Commissioner
Joshua Krauss, NYC Economic Development Corporation
Miriam Bensman, QueensLink
Noelle Hunter, Queenslink