



Donovan Richards
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Anatole Ashraf
Chairperson
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March 17, 2026

Eduardo Del Valle
Commissioner
NYC Department of Design and Construction
30-30 Thomson Avenue, 4th Floor
Long Island City, New York 11101

RE: **Court Square Pedestrian Improvement Project - HWQ788CS**

Dear Commissioner Del Valle:

At the March 3, 2026, meeting of the Queens Community Board 2 Transportation Committee, a motion was made in support of the Court Square Pedestrian Improvement Project (#HWQ788CS) as presented by the NYC Department of Design and Construction. The committee requested that the project include a public restroom, secure bike parking, and an eastbound contraflow protected bike lane as part of the one-way conversion on Thomson Avenue.

The motion, with the added requests, passed unanimously.

A public park should provide a public restroom and this project offers an ample opportunity for the addition, as the scope of the project includes sewer and water main upgrades. New York City has already committed funding to a new public restroom in Court Square in the OneLIC Neighborhood Plan.

A project that increases pedestrian space and amenities and reduces car infrastructure will also induce more cycle traffic. The bike network in our district is growing and ridership increases each year, yet bike parking remains an issue and a cause for concern. NYC standard bike racks should be installed at the park, but the city should also provide secure bike parking as an alternative for cyclists. Secure bike parking, in the form of lockers or larger structures, can offer a more reliable place to store a bike for visitors and local residents.

And a contraflow bike lane on the one-way conversion of Thomson Avenue would organize the

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roadway and sidewalk, offering cyclists a lane for reaching points east of the park without mixing in with pedestrians and automobiles coming the opposite direction.

Sincerely,



Anatole Ashraf
Chairperson, Queens, Community Board 2



Reilly Owens
Chair, Transportation Committee

Cc: Honorable Grace Meng, US Congress
Honorable Nydia M. Velazquez, US Congress
Honorable Michael Gianaris, NY State Senate
Honorable Kristen Gonzalez, NY State Senate
Honorable Steven Raga, NYS Assembly
Honorable Claire Valdez, NYS Assembly
Honorable Julie Won, NYC Council Member
Honorable Shekar Krishnan, NYC Council Member
Honorable Donovan Richards, Queens Borough President
Ari Gershman, Department of Design and Construction