



*Donovan Richards
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Community Board No. 2

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*Anatole Ashraf
Chairperson*

*Debra Markell Kleinert
District Manager*

January 6, 2026

Nicole Garcia
Queens Borough Commissioner
NYC Department of Transportation
120-55 Queens Boulevard, Room 285
Kew Gardens, New York 111484

Eric Koester
Regional Director
NYS Department of Transportation
Hunters Point Plaza
47-40 21st Street
Long Island City, New York 11101

RE: **Request for NYC DOT & NYS DOT provide vertical hardened separation between the shared bike/pedestrian path and the automobile travel lane at the underpass/entrance to the Long Island Expressway at 43rd St.**

Dear Commissioner Garcia and Regional Director Koester:

At the December 2, 2025, meeting of the Queens Community Board 2 Transportation Committee, a motion was made and seconded to request that the NYC DOT and NYS DOT coordinate to provide vertical hardened separation between the shared bike/pedestrian path and the automobile travel lane at the underpass/entrance to the Long Island Expressway at 43rd St. All were in favor of the motion with none opposed and no abstentions.

The shared use path on the sidewalk provides only a narrow space for cyclists and pedestrians to move through the underpass to reach destinations beyond and is a weak point in the network. Beyond this underpass, the pedestrian/cyclist bridge leads to a much wider shared use path on Laurel Hill Blvd., and past that the Kosciusko Bridge Walkway and Bike Path, Maspeth Park, and

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the Review Avenue protected bike lane and sidewalk, a de facto greenway. In the other direction, the bike network in Sunnyside starting on 43rd St. leads to more protected bike lanes and pedestrian-friendly features. All incentivize cycling and walking in this area.

Because of the narrowness of the shared path in question, cyclists especially are vulnerable to falling into the motor vehicle lane, where cars and trucks are entering an Expressway and drivers are already in a highway mindset, accelerating to higher speeds.

Short of widening the shared use path here, the Transportation Committee agrees the best solution to providing safety and confidence to cyclists and pedestrians is to create vertical, hardened separation between them and the motor vehicles.

Sincerely,


Anatole Ashraf
Chairperson, Queens Community Board 2


Reilly Owens
Chair, Transportation Committee


Debra Markell Kleinert
District Manager,

Cc: Jason Barney, NYC Department of Transportation
Joseph Patti, NYC Department of Transportation

**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 Jessica Ramos, NY State Senate
Honorable Claire Valdez, NYS Assembly
Honorable Jessica Gonzalez-Rojas, NYS Assembly
Honorable Steven Raga, NYS Assembly
Honorable Shekar Krishnan, NYC Council Member
Honorable Julie Won, NYC Council Member
Honorable Phil Wong, NYC Council Member
Honorable Donovan Richards, Queens Borough President**