



*Donovan Richards*  
*Queens Borough President*

## Community Board No. 2

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*Morry Galonoy*  
*Chairperson*

*Debra Markell Kleinert*  
*District Manager*

March 4, 2022

Honorable Ydanis Rodriguez  
Commissioner  
New York City Department of Transportation  
55 Water Street  
New York, New York 10041

RE: **Conversion of the Queensboro Bridge South Outer Roadway to a Pedestrian Walkway**

Dear Commissioner Rodriguez:

Community Board 2 has voted to support the conversion of the Queensboro Bridge South Outer Roadway to a pedestrian walkway for almost a decade and urges the NYC Department of Transportation to expedite the conversion immediately. At the March 3, 2022, CB 2 Full Board Meeting a motion was made and seconded to send this letter of urgency regarding the timing of the conversion. The vote was unanimous with all in favor of the motion, none opposed and no abstentions.

The current shared path on the North Outer Roadway has long proven inadequate for bi-directional walking, running, biking and other micro-mobility users.

Given the frequency of collisions on the shared path, the urgency of the global climate crisis, the significant increase in walking and biking before and throughout the pandemic which has been bolstered by the expansion of protected bike infrastructure and bike share on both sides of the bridge, and the anticipated 2023 implementation of congestion pricing, the South Outer Roadway conversion cannot wait.

We understand that the bridge's upper deck is undergoing an extensive multi-year construction project, which requires vehicular lane closures at various points throughout the duration of the project. These closures will not only increase car congestion but will likely increase cycling and walking as those able to avoid driving the span might choose walking or cycling instead. This makes the timing of the conversion even more pressing.

*"Serving the Communities of Long Island City, Sunnyside, Woodside, and Maspeth"*

The Community Board 2 Transportation Committee feels strongly that construction is not a reasonable justification for failing to provide adequate facilities for walking and biking, and that the most vulnerable bridge users must be prioritized.

The Queensboro Bridge remains the only direct legal and accessible route for walking and biking between Queens and Manhattan. Vehicle drivers may seek alternative routes, including the Triboro Bridge and Queens midtown tunnel.

We also understand and support the reasoning that at off-peak times, when the South Outer Roadway must be closed to the public to safely facilitate active construction, pedestrians may be rerouted back to the shared path on North Outer Roadway.

We appreciate the Department of Transportation's commitment to this project, but we need urgent action to meet the urgent needs of our community members. We look forward to working with the Department of Transportation, our elected officials, and community members on both sides of the East River to get this done.

Thank you for your review of this matter.

Sincerely,



Debra Markell Kleinert

District Manager, Community Board 2, Queens

Cc: Honorable Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, US Congress  
Honorable Carolyn B, Maloney, US Congress  
Honorable Grace Meng, US Congress  
Honorable Nydia M. Velazquez, US Congress  
Honorable Michael Gianaris, NY State Senate  
Honorable Brian Barnwell, NYS Assembly  
Honorable Jessica Gonzalez-Rojas, NYS Assembly  
Honorable Catherine T. Nolan, NYS Assembly  
Honorable Robert Holden, NYC Council Member  
Honorable Shekar Krishnan, NYC Council Member  
Honorable Julie Won, NYC Council Member  
Honorable Donovan Richards, Queens Borough President  
Nicole Garcia, NYC Department of Transportation  
Morry Galonoy, Chairperson, Community Board 2  
Sheila Lewandowski, Chair, Transportation Committee, CB 2  
Thomas Mituzas, Co-Chair, Transportation Committee, CB 2