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Danielle Brecker
Chairperson

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May 3, 2023

Mr. Nasim Ghani
Professional Engineer 2, Design Group
New York State Department of Transportation, Region 11
47-40 21st Street
Long Island City, New York 11101

RE: **New York State Department of Transportation - Presentation on X731.52 Bridge Rehabilitation of Brooklyn Queens Expressway (I-278) Viaduct over Laurel Hill Boulevard, Between 47th Street and 58th Street, Queens New York**

Dear Mr. Ghani:

Community Board extends our appreciation for your presentation at the May 2, 2023 Transportation Committee Meeting.

At that meeting, with a quorum present, a motion was made and seconded to not support the plan as presented by the New York State Department of Transportation until the NYS DOT considers the issues and questions by the Transportation Committee of Community Board 2. Each individual item on this list was not supported by a majority, so much as the Committee would like all of the items to be considered by NYSDOT as part of an innovation examination of a forward-looking re-design of this section of the Brooklyn Queens Expressway (I-278) Viaduct over Laurel Hill Boulevard, between 47th Street and 58th Street, Queens, New York. The list as discussed included the following:

- ✓ Environmental mitigation for flooding, drainage
- ✓ Greening
- ✓ Cost Estimate comparisons for an innovative forward looking urban design versus a fix to the status quo.
- ✓ Reducing the speed limit on Laurel Hill Blvd and other traffic calming measures.
- ✓ Lighting on Laurel Hill Boulevard that creates a safer route for pedestrians, motorized and non-motorized vehicles.
- ✓ Lane size and number of the BQE and the underpass.
- ✓ Bike infrastructure
- ✓ Consideration for the disabled and seniors navigating the underpass.
- ✓ Upgraded pedestrian infrastructure.

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

All were in favor of the motion by a show of hands with none opposed and no abstentions.

Please feel free to contact Community Board 2 at (718) 533-8773.

Sincerely,


Debra Markell Kleinert
District Manager

DMK/mag

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 Juan Ardila, NYS Assembly
Honorable Jessica Gonzalez-Rojas, NYS Assembly
Honorable Zohran Mamdani, NYS Assembly
Honorable Steven Raga, 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
Danielle Brecker, Chairperson, Community Board 2
Sheila Lewandowski, Chair, Transportation Committee
Tom Mituzas, Co-Chair, Transportation Committee
Nicole Garcia, NYC Department of Transportation
Jason Banrey, NYC Department of Transportation
Cristy Vanterpool-Germain, NYC Department of Transportation