



Traffic Mobility Review Board

Carl Weisbrod, Chair

John Banks

John Durso

John Samuelson

Elizabeth Velez

Kathryn Wylde

July 13, 2023

To Whom It May Concern:

We are elected officials representing Brooklyn communities in proximity to the East River crossings into Manhattan (Brooklyn, Manhattan and Williamsburg Bridges) and the entrance to the Hugh L. Carey Tunnel. We write to express our strong support for equalized tolling to ensure that we are equitably distributing drivers across the various passages into Manhattan as no one community should disproportionately bear the burden of the cars and trucks passing through their neighborhood. Equalized tolling would also have the critical benefit of extending the lifespan of the rapidly deteriorating Triple Cantilever section of the Brooklyn Queens-Expressway (BQE) by more equitably diverting traffic to the Carey Tunnel and other crossings into Manhattan.

The recent Draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) and final approval by the Federal Highway Administration regarding the New York City Central Business District Tolling Program paves the way for the Traffic Mobility Review Board (TMRB) to begin making final determinations on tolls and system functionality in accordance with the 2019 MTA Reform and Traffic Mobility Act.

We strongly urge the TMRB to implement a system of credits that will provide cost equalization between NYC DOT bridges and MTA tunnel crossings between Brooklyn and Manhattan, such that drivers are equally incentivized to use any crossing into Manhattan.

This step is essential in order to maximize traffic reduction and the climate benefits of Congestion Pricing. Without such a system, drivers will still be incentivized to “bridge shop”, thereby diverting more traffic to less expensive crossings. That outcome would be particularly disastrous for the communities along the BQE corridor and Triple Cantilever section, which will not be replaced for many years, and is frequently traveled as a means of accessing the free Brooklyn, Manhattan, and Williamsburg Bridges.

We look forward to continued engagement on this very important topic. We thank you for your timely attention and consideration of this matter.

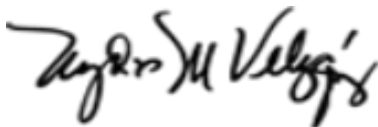
Sincerely,



Senator Andrew Gounardes



Congressman Dan Goldman



Congresswoman Nydia Velázquez



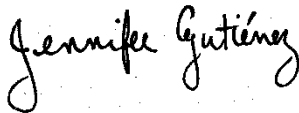
Council Member Lincoln Restler



Council Member Shahana Hanif



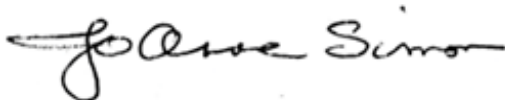
Council Member Alexa Avilés



Council Member Jennifer Gutiérrez



Council Member Crystal Hudson



Assemblymember Jo Anne Simon



Assemblymember Robert Carroll



Assemblymember Phara Souffrant Forrest



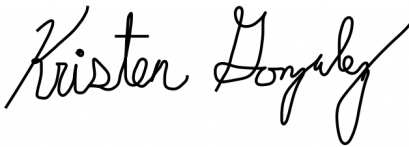
Assemblymember Emily Gallagher



Assemblymember Marcella Mityanes



Brooklyn Borough President Antonio Reynoso



State Senator Kristen Gonzalez



State Senator Julia Salazar

Cc: Janno Lieber, MTA Chair and CEO  
Ydanis Rodriguez, NYC DOT Commissioner