

One Brooklyn Bridge Condo Association

***360 Furman Street
Brooklyn, New York 11201***

STATEMENT BEFORE CITY COUNCIL HEARING ON THE FUTURE OF THE BQE RECONSTRUCTION

Speaker Johnson, Chairman Rodriguez and members of the City Council:

Thank you for the opportunity to share our thoughts on the process of rebuilding the BQE. As you know the highway is immediately adjacent our building at 360 Furman Street, comprising 430 units and over 1200 residents. No building along the corridor is more impacted than ours.

In November of 2018 we shared a letter to NYC DOT Commissioner Trottenberg with our elected officials and other community leaders in which we outlined our concerns in opposing the two plans advanced by NYC DOT. We argued that there was a better option and that until a better plan was put in place needed immediate repairs should be more fully explored. We also made a number of recommendations that should be considered for incorporation into whatever strategy is adopted. (We have attached a copy of that letter.)

We welcomed the report of the Mayor's Expert Panel and believe that now is the time to move forward with much of the agenda that the panel advanced.

We urge you to make the BQE process a coordinated effort that engages key decision makers at the Federal, State and City level and includes various government Authorities that can guide and impact the program, including the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, Metropolitan Transportation Authority's NYC Transit and Bridges and Tunnels. Toward this objective legislation should be introduced in Albany to create an entity that will be given authority to implement and finance the reconstruction plan.

We also urge the Council to use its influence to create a Transportation Management Plan that will assist in better managing the immediate repair program while informing decisions on a permanent reconstruction. Many of these agenda items were endorsed by the panel including: lane reductions on the cantilever; two way tolling on the Verrazzano Bridge; opening the Brooklyn Battery Tunnel and Belt Parkway to commercial vehicles; shifting freight movements to water transport; and enforcing truck weight laws.

Additionally, while it appears the State and City will have to wait for a congestion pricing program pending Federal approval, we would urge the MTA to consider peak time pricing at the Battery Tunnel and Verrazzano Bridge. We would also suggest that the City consider implementing a weekday resident parking program in DUMBO, Brooklyn

Heights, Cobble Hill and Carroll Gardens to deter passenger vehicle traffic through this corridor.

Finally, we expect that the City will work transparently and cooperatively with the communities most impacted by the need for urgent repairs of the BQE Cantilever. Since the Expert Panel released its recommendations we have not heard from any office on the extent or timing of the immediate repair program. Our expectation is that the City will follow the relevant environmental laws and incorporate many of the environmental and safety recommendations identified by the community. The City should look to minimize traffic along Furman Street and ensure pedestrian safety at key exchanges especially the Brooklyn Bridge Park entrances adjacent to our building at Joralemon Street and Atlantic Avenue. We also expect that the City will examine any necessary environmental mitigation measures like sound attenuation, carbon capture and storm water management as it advances with any repairs.

Again thank you for this opportunity and we look forward to working with you.

February 25, 2020