



**BROOKLYN
HEIGHTS
ASSOCIATION**

55 Pierrepont Street, Box 17D, Brooklyn, NY 11201 (718) 858-9193 info@thebha.org www.thebha.org

Officers

President

Martha Bakos Dietz

Vice Presidents

Daniel Watts
Erika Belsey Worth
Carolyn L. Ziegler

Secretary

Donald Brennan

Treasurer

Kevin B. Reilly

Board of Governors

Kerith J. Aronow
Christian F. Bastian
Erika Belsey Worth
Lorraine Bonaventura
Donald Brennan
Martha Bakos Dietz
Bruce L. Gregory
Patrick Killackey
Anne T. Landman
Jeremy Lechtzin
Christopher Melling
Whitten Morris
Kevin B. Reilly
Steve Rothman
Sara Sarakanti
Lisa C. Smith
Daniel Watts
Christopher Wright
Inger Yancey
Jim Walden
Carolyn L. Ziegler

Executive Director

Peter L. Bray

Executive Assistant

Katherine Davis

June 14, 2017

The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo
Governor of New York State
NYS State Capitol Building
Albany, New York 12224

The Honorable John J. Flanagan
Temporary President and Majority Leader
New York State Senate
Capital Room 330
Albany, New York 12247

The Honorable Carl E. Heastie
Speaker
New York State Assembly
Capital Room 330
Albany, New York 12247

Dear Governor Cuomo, Senator Flanagan, and Speaker Heastie:

We, the undersigned, are writing to urge you to pass legislation sponsored by Senators Golden, Lanza and Squadron, which would authorize the NYC Department of Transportation (NYCDOT) to use a Design-Build approach to rehabilitate the Brooklyn-Queens Expressway among other projects.

Opened to traffic in the mid 1940s, the BQE has exceeded its useful life and requires ever increasing resources from the NYCDOT to keep the 1.5 mile portion from Atlantic Avenue to Sands Street in operating condition. Any delay in the implementation of NYCDOT's \$1.89 billion reconstruction would jeopardize the local and regional economy should a portion of this highway fail and force the detour of 140,000 vehicles daily onto local streets.

While vitally necessary, the BQE project will impact our communities during its lengthy reconstruction period. Fortunately, many public authorities are now turning to the design-build approach whose ability to save money and time has been well demonstrated. A shorter project construction period will also reduce traffic diversions and delay, air pollution, and noise imposed on our communities.

Design-build is now being increasingly used nationally to supplant the design-bid-build process; in 2016, there were 1,300 such design build projects compared to 140 in 2002. By combining the design and construction phases, rather than having two separate contracts and bidding processes, design-build has expedited complicated construction projects and saved taxpayers money. The New York State Department of

Transportation (NYSDOT) used design-build on the first of the new Kosciuszko Bridges, which was completed a mere three years after the State awarded the contract.

Passage of the design-build legislation is critical for a cost-effective, time-efficient reconstruction of the BQE. Once again, we urge you to enact this important legislation to benefit communities throughout Brooklyn and the region that will be affected by this project.

Sincerely,



Peter L. Bray
Executive Director

cc: Senate and Assembly Brooklyn and Queens Delegation

Additional signatories to the letter:

Tammy Ben-Eliezer-Baxter, Executive Director, Atlantic Avenue Local Development Corporation

Ted Valand, President, Cadman Plaza North

Toba Potosky, President, Cadman Towers

Amy Breedlove, President, Cobble Hill Association

Leonard Jordan, President, Concord Village Owners Inc

Alexandria Sica, Executive Director, Dumbo Improvement District

Doreen Gallo, President, Dumbo Neighborhood Association

Kate Chura, Executive Director, Montague Street BID

Stephen Houck, President, One Brooklyn Bridge Park Condominium

Mark Foggin, Interim Executive Director, Southwest Brooklyn Industrial Development Corporation

Rabbi David Niederman, President, United Jewish Organizations of Williamsburg and North Brooklyn

Aldona Vaiciunas, President, Vinegar Hill Neighborhood Association

Allen Rosen, President, Whitman Owner Corporation

Linda DeRosa, President, Willowtown Association