



**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

First Vice President

Erika Belsey Worth

Vice Presidents

Daniel Watts

Carolyn L. Ziegler

Secretary

Christopher Melling

Treasurer

Kevin B. Reilly

Board of Governors

Kerith J. Aronow

Cheryl Baker

Christian F. Bastian

Erika Belsey Worth

Lorraine Bonaventura

Martha Bakos Dietz

Jeremy Lechtzin

Christopher Melling

Jane Platt

Kevin B. Reilly

Susan Restler

Lisa C. Smith

Koren Volk

Jim Walden

Daniel Watts

Christopher Wright

Inger Yancey

Carolyn L. Ziegler

Executive Director

Peter L. Bray

Executive Assistant

Katherine Davis

April 25, 2019

To the Members of the Panel on the BQE Reconstruction:

The Brooklyn Heights Association welcomes this opportunity to address the BQE Panel. We recognize the difficulty of the job you have undertaken but we are excited at the possibilities that might emerge from your endeavors. We appreciate that the Panel is actively engaging with community stakeholders and want to share with you our vision of what can be accomplished. Below is an outline of values, objectives and criteria we hope will be useful to you.

Of great importance to us is a transparent process that gives all affected communities meaningful opportunities to engage with you after this first meeting. Equally important is an end result that is a 21st century solution to a major transportation problem, that recognizes the historic character of many of the neighborhoods impacted by the BQE, and that changes permanently the relationship of the highway to its adjacent neighborhoods in a way that protects and even enhances their vibrancy.

BHA Statement of Values, Objectives and Criteria to Assess the BQE Project

What We Expect Will Be Achieved

- A forward-looking final design that reflects future traffic requirements, alternative routing options, enhanced public transportation and pedestrian access, and generally improves current conditions significantly
- Preservation of the historic character of the Promenade and of Brooklyn Heights, including maintenance of pedestrian access to the Promenade as long as possible during any construction
- Preservation of the Scenic View District on the Promenade
- A construction approach and a final design that minimize the impact of the highway on nearby residential buildings and the air, noise and visual pollution in all adjoining neighborhoods
- Deeper integration of the adjoining neighborhoods into Brooklyn Bridge Park, including better connections to the Park to enhance public access, and improvement, or creation, of open space for public use in adjacent areas

- A welcoming Atlantic Avenue gateway to the Park
- Safer pedestrian crossing from Joralemon Street at Furman Street
- A more unified Van Voorhees Park
- Improved pedestrian environment on Old Fulton Street, including implementation of elements of the Brooklyn Strand along Old Fulton Street and extending to Commodore Barry Park
- Decking of existing trench in Carroll Gardens and Cobble Hill for open space or community amenities, not real estate development
- Significant community engagement in the design and construction process for both any temporary roadway and the ultimate highway to ensure that residents of all affected neighborhoods are important stakeholders in the final outcome
- During construction, the implementation of traffic demand management measures, including street direction reversals, that minimize use by diverted traffic of local streets in all affected neighborhoods

What We Expect Will Be Avoided

- The proposed Promenade Highway at our neighborhood's doorstep
- Any temporary construction which – were funding to disappear – would become an unacceptable permanent structure
- A mere rebuilding of the current highway, though upgraded to current federal standards, that perpetuates the adverse noise and pollution impacts of the highway on adjacent neighborhoods and on Brooklyn Bridge Park and continues the configurations at Atlantic Avenue, Joralemon Street, and Old Fulton Street that so impede safe access to the Park
- Creation of new commercial or real estate development parcels that impinge on the waterfront, the Park, or the adjoining neighborhoods
- Destruction or substantial reduction of the Promenade or creation of an unnecessarily enlarged Promenade with commercial development of any sort
- Use of non-consensual eminent domain

Sincerely,

Martha Bakos Dietz

Martha Bakos Dietz
President