

For Immediate Release

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Survey Results Show Brooklyn Heights Community Wants the BQE Plan To Be Driven By Climate & Public Health Concerns; City Encouraged to Think “Beyond a Rebuild.”

A large majority of those surveyed believe the city should be designing for the future of transportation and mobility, not the past. Respondents support a smaller roadway that minimizes air & noise pollution, protects the historic Brooklyn Heights Promenade and is part of a corridor-wide transformation.

Brooklyn, NY-- Today the Brooklyn Heights Association (BHA) released the results of a survey taken by hundreds of community members regarding the future of the Brooklyn Queens Expressway (BQE). Approximately 500 people (495) took part in the online survey, which was conducted between late April and early May of this year. Over 61% of survey respondents indicated they had not participated in NYC DOT-led workshops throughout the fall of 2022 and early spring of 2023 making this survey an important new contribution to the discussion. A summary of the results of the survey can be found on the [BHA's website](#).

Key takeaways from the survey data are:

1. Respondents want a smaller roadway that maximizes capping and covering, and reduces greenhouse gas emissions and noise pollution while improving air quality.
2. A significant majority (67%) support making only the immediate repairs needed for safety reasons and taking the time necessary to plan and implement a holistic vision for the entire corridor.
3. Over 70% believe the highway should not be widened to restore six lanes of traffic.

4. Preserving the Historic Brooklyn Heights Promenade is a top 3 priority for 66% of respondents, along with creating a new connection from the Promenade to the waterfront (67% in favor.)

5. 60% support closing specific on and off ramps to the BQE at Atlantic Avenue and/or Vine Street, among others in order to improve safety for both people and vehicles, and reduce traffic on the cantilever and local streets.

Moreover, respondents are eager for much more detailed information about the construction impacts, cost, and timeline for this project.

The BHA, along with its partners in the Coalition for the BQE Transformation (BQET) has been at the forefront of the battle for a better BQE for years. The BHA and the BQET want to see a 21st-Century reimagining of the entire BQE corridor that benefits all of the adjacent communities, not just the neighborhoods next to the crumbling and decrepit Triple Cantilever section.

“Through this survey the community has confirmed that the goals we set out for this project at the beginning remain the correct ones. Safety remains of paramount concern—the city must work expeditiously to make the necessary life-extending repairs to the Triple Cantilever. At the same time, we continue our call for a corridor-wide plan that reverses the environmental and public health hazards associated with urban expressways. Now is the time to engage in a vigorous conversation about the future of the entire corridor that focuses on environmental justice and transportation alternatives to cars and trucks. Furthermore, any plan must respect our neighborhood's most beloved treasures, the Historic Brooklyn Heights Promenade, and Brooklyn Bridge Park, both of which are enjoyed by hundreds of thousands of New Yorkers and visitors every year,” said Lara Birnback, Executive Director of the Brooklyn Heights Association

“I want to applaud the Brooklyn Heights Association for launching their BQE community survey gathering ideas, concerns and feedback on how we should imagine the future of the BQE. It is clear that we must have a plan in place that meets our climate goals, reduces traffic flow through neighboring streets, and takes the time to create a transformative plan. I hope the city will include BHA’s survey results in their research,” said **U.S. Congress Member Dan Goldman**

“There is no doubt that the BQE corridor needs a radical, transformative new design that centers the input and voices from the communities most affected. The Brooklyn Heights Association’s community survey is elevating the opinions of residents who have previously not been heard in this discussion and reminds us of what it important to those from the tip of Greenpoint to the Gowanus Expressway—the desire for an environmentally conscious highway design that sets our city up for the future,” said **NY State Senator Andrew Gounardes**

"These survey results reflect what we have been hearing from the community for years: Brooklynites want a smaller, safer, and environmentally sustainable BQE plan that will reduce greenhouse gasses and improve pedestrian safety. While the City makes critical safety repairs to the triple cantilever, we must redesign the entire BQE corridor to ensure the health and safety of those communities impacted throughout Brooklyn. It's also clear that the Brooklyn Heights community wants modern and transformative change such as tunneling or capping, and this is possible with major initiatives within reach such as congestion pricing, overweight truck enforcement, and the city's ambitious freight plan. Thank you to the BHA for their commitment to civic engagement and to ensuring that government seizes this once-in-a-century opportunity to reimagine the BQE in a way that New Yorkers deserve," said **NY Assembly Member Jo Anne Simon**

"Community members have spoken and they want holistic, climate oriented solutions for the BQE that improve air quality in our community, maximally cap the highway structure to limit negative impacts, and maintain no more than two lanes of traffic in each direction. This is what we've been pushing for since day one, and we're committed to continuing to work with the Brooklyn Heights Association and our community to make it happen," said **NY City Council Member Lincoln Restler**

ABOUT THE BROOKLYN HEIGHTS ASSOCIATION (BHA)

The mission of the BHA is to engage the Brooklyn Heights community in maintaining and improving the quality of life in our neighborhood. The BHA serves as an advocate for thoughtful planning and development, the promotion of a livable urban environment, and for a safe and economically vibrant streetscape. For more information, please visit thebha.org.