



October 30, 2025

Dear Governor Hochul, State Operations Director Garcia, and State Transportation Commissioner Dominguez:

On behalf of the members of the Brooklyn-Queens Expressway Environmental Justice Alliance (BQE-EJC), we write to express our deep disappointment and dismay at the New York City Department of Transportation (NYC DOT) decision to pursue a date of November 14th to publish a Notice of Interest (NOI) for the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Atlantic to Sands stretch of the Brooklyn-Queens Expressway (BQE). As you are aware, publication of the NOI will be immediately followed by public scoping meetings and a public comment period that will last through early to mid-January of 2026. **We strongly object to NYC DOT's timeline and request that NYS DOT revisit the timing of the NOI until after the new year to provide for genuine community engagement.**

After months of delays and no communication about the EIS process since December 2024, we are now told that NYC DOT is pushing forward with a process, the timing of which would make it extremely challenging, if not impossible, for meaningful public input to occur. Furthermore, we understand that a great number of build alternatives will be presented, some of which may be new or significantly revised since the last opportunity for public review, making substantive public input even more difficult and less likely to be considered.

The BQE-EJC is committed to a common goal of addressing the generations of harm caused by the BQE. Representing diverse communities, we advocate for a cleaner, healthier, safer, and sustainable future for the highway and the surrounding communities. Over the past three and a half years, members of the communities we represent have invested their time in meetings, Zoom calls, and workshops in a good-faith effort to work with NYC DOT to find the right path forward for the BQE. Far too often, we have come away from those meetings with unanswered questions and vague or incomplete explanations of NYC DOT's assumptions, plans, and timelines.

Given that an entirely new city administration will be in place starting in January, it is misguided to lock our city, state, and communities into a process and alternatives that have failed to receive support from the neighborhoods they impact and from the elected

officials who represent them. It is these same elected officials whose cooperation will be required for the approval of any final plan. The plan for the “BQE Central” section of the highway is of great importance not only to the directly adjacent communities but also to neighborhoods from Bay Ridge, Brooklyn, to Astoria, Queens. We must not act prematurely by pushing the BQE Central section forward in a way that would preclude meaningful transformation and equitable improvements to the northern and southern sections.

We ask that NYS DOT readjust the NOI timeline to allow our communities to constructively shape this critical infrastructure project to meet our longstanding needs and vision for our neighborhoods, our health, and well-being. We urge NYSDOT to prioritize alignment with the upcoming mayoral transition process and reaffirm its commitment to deep and intentional engagement with elected leaders and community members. We would be happy to meet with your teams to discuss this further. We look forward to continuing to work with you on the BQE in the coming months and years.

Sincerely,

The Brooklyn-Queens Expressway Environmental Justice Coalition

El Puente
UPROSE
NYC Environmental Justice Alliance
Red Hook Initiative
Woodside on the Move
Brooklyn Heights Association
Cobble Hill Association
Riders Alliance
Open Plans
DUMBO Neighborhood Alliance
North Heights Neighbors
350 Brooklyn
Tri-State Transportation Campaign
360 Furman
Street Works
Make Justice Normal

CC: U.S. Representative Dan Goldman, U.S. Representative Nydia Velázquez, State Senator Andrew Gounardes, State Senator Julia Salazar, Assemblymember Jo Anne Simon, Assemblymember Maritza Davila, Assemblymember Emily Gallagher, Assemblymember Marcela Mitaynes, Brooklyn Borough President Antonio Reynoso, Councilmember Lincoln Restler, Councilmember Jennifer Gutiérrez, Councilmember Alexa Avilés, Councilmember Shahana Hanif.