



March 12, 2018

The Honorable John Flanagan
Majority Leader
New York State Senate
Capitol Building, Room 330
Albany, NY 12247

The Honorable Andrea Stewart-Cousins
Democratic Conference Leader
New York State Senate
Legislative Office Building, Room 907
Albany, NY 12247

The Honorable Jeffrey D. Klein
Independent Democratic Conference Leader
Legislative Office Building, Room 913
Albany, NY 12247

Dear Senators Flanagan, Stewart-Cousins, and Klein:

We are writing to advocate that design-build authorization for the reconstruction of the 1.5-mile stretch from Atlantic Avenue to Sands Street of the Brooklyn Queens Expressway (BQE) be included in the Senate's One-House Budget for Fiscal Year 2019. By authorizing New York City Department of Transportation (DOT) to use design-build for this project, the State would save taxpayers over \$100 million and shave two years from the projected construction timeline. The City's proposal would also make design-build contracts subject to federal, state, and local requirements for minority and women-owned business enterprises, including the Mayor's new citywide goal of 30% participation.

Earlier this year, a bipartisan group of 19 Senators and Assemblymembers representing neighborhoods in Brooklyn and Staten Island sent a letter to Governor Cuomo describing the urgent need for design-build authorization for this project, and requesting that it be included in the Executive Budget. The Governor's office stated his support for design-build for the BQE in a letter released on March 5.

While the roadway is not currently unsafe for use, DOT engineers believe that it will become so if this reconstruction project is not undertaken. Given the critical need for the work, DOT needs to move forward with the procurement process this spring. If legislation to authorize design-build is not enacted by the end of March, the procurement will rely on the traditional design-bid-build

scheme. This would not only extend the timeline of the project, but according to DOT's engineers, would require rerouting trucks from the BQE to local neighborhoods whose streets were not designed for this type of traffic.

By 2026, DOT estimates that the BQE will no longer have the capacity to transport trucks on the roadway. With design-build, the City expects the project to be complete before this 2026 cutoff. Using design-bid-build, construction is expected to last until 2028, forcing DOT to redirect trucks off the BQE and into our communities. On February 9, residents of these communities, extremely concerned by the prospect of large trucks traveling through their neighborhoods, stood with City and State elected officials, the Commissioners of DOT and NYC Department of Design and Construction, and labor, business, and civic organizations to advocate for design-build authorization for this project. This is a critical roadway for the entire region. In addition to local residents, design-build for this project is supported by:

New York Building Congress
AAA Northeast
Trucking Association of New York
Partnership for New York City
Community Board 2
Community Board 6
Brooklyn Heights Association
Downtown Brooklyn Partnership
Willowtown Association
Cobble Hill Association
Atlantic Avenue BID
DUMBO BID
DUMBO Neighborhood Alliance
Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce
Brooklyn Bridge Park Community Advisory Council
Boerum Hill Association
CHIPS (Christian Help in Park Slope) Food Pantry

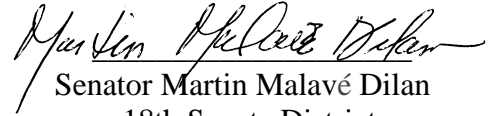
We recognize that this will be a massive and disruptive – but necessary – reconstruction, which is why we seek to minimize its impacts to the extent possible. The State has successfully used design-build for several projects, including the Mario Cuomo Bridge and the Kosciuzsko Bridge, to reduce costs and expedite their timelines. The City has committed the full cost of the reconstruction project. We strongly support authorization of design-build for the BQE in the budget, to provide much needed relief for our communities and drivers traveling along this critical roadway. We look forward to working with the Governor and our colleagues in the Assembly to ensure that design-build authorization for this project is included in the final budget.

If you or your staff wish to discuss this matter in further detail, please contact any of us directly or via Senator Brian Kavanagh's office at 212-298-5565.

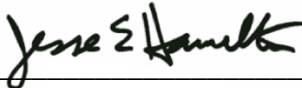
Sincerely,



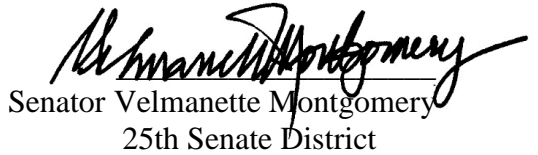
Senator Brian Kavanagh
26th Senate District



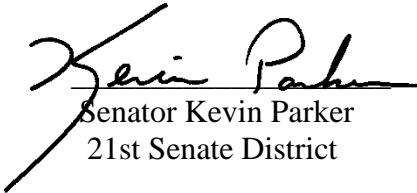
Senator Martin Malavé Dilan
18th Senate District



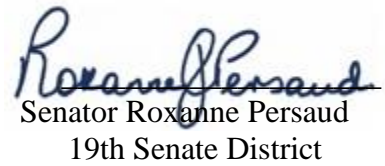
Senator Jesse Hamilton
20th Senate District



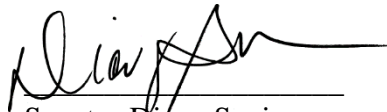
Senator Velmanette Montgomery
25th Senate District



Senator Kevin Parker
21st Senate District



Senator Roxanne Persaud
19th Senate District



Senator Diane Savino
23rd Senate District