



March 9, 2016

Anthony Shorris
First Deputy Mayor
City Hall
New York, NY 10007

Dear First Deputy Mayor Shorris,

We write regarding construction coordination in Lower Manhattan. Currently, there are over 90 active projects in a 1.5 square mile radius in Lower Manhattan, and even more sites with active operations, such as where a crane collapsed on February 5th. We are concerned that with the impending closure of the Department of Transportation's Lower Manhattan Borough Commissioner's Office, there will be no entity coordinating the large number of current and pending projects in the area. We request that your office assign a construction coordinator to engage the Lower Manhattan community in construction related issues.

An entity responsible for coordinating construction among multiple agencies has been critical in Lower Manhattan for over a decade. From 2004 to 2013, the Lower Manhattan Construction Command Center (LMCCC) provided residents a single entity to contact with any quality of life issues involving construction. It also worked with agencies to coordinate environmental reports and planning of projects. DOT has assumed this role since LMCCC was disbanded in 2013.

However, as Commissioner Trottenberg stated in this year's City Council preliminary budget hearing, DOT does not have the resources, authority, or mandate to consult with the multiple agencies that any construction project entails since LMCCC was downsized.

In the absence of a unifying agency, individual elected offices have taken it upon themselves to bring agencies together to determine how to coordinate construction and minimize its impact on the community on a project by project basis. In anticipation of a water main replacement along Worth Street, Senator Squadron has been convening the Worth Street Task Force, along with Community Board 1 and colleagues, in order to ensure community engagement in the construction process. This task force has included three city agencies and has provided an important forum for inter-agency concerns related to this particular project. This type of coordination is needed across Lower Manhattan.

Construction coordination concerns have also been raised more broadly. In December 2015, The City Council wrote a letter, led by Councilmember Garodnick, asking for the Mayor to appoint a Manhattan construction coordinator to work with the DOT and DOB to ensure quality of life for residents of all of Manhattan.

We request a meeting with you to discuss this further. We appreciate your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Daniel Squadron
State Senator

Jerrold Nadler
Congressmember

Gale A. Brewer
Manhattan Borough President

Margaret Chin
City Councilmember