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September 29, 2016

Polly Trottenberg
Commissioner
New York City Department of Transportation
55 Water Street, 9th Floor
New York, NY 10041

Shirley McRae
Chairperson
Community Board 2
350 Jay Street, 8th Floor
Brooklyn NY 11201

Re: Opposition to Closure of Schermerhorn Street access to Flatbush Avenue in Brooklyn

Dear Commissioner Trottenberg and Chairperson McRae,

I am writing to express my opposition to a plan to close Schermerhorn Street's access to Flatbush Avenue as proposed by Alloy Development at this month's Community Board 2 meeting.

According to Alloy, this alternate access point to Flatbush Avenue between Schermerhorn, Third Avenue and Flatbush is seldom used. However, for traffic flow, this street provides an important means of access onto Southbound Flatbush Avenue.

I would also point out that there are already a large number of residential, commercial and hotel developments in various stages of construction along Schermerhorn and Livingston Streets extending to Flatbush Avenue from Bond, Nevins, Hoyt and Smith Streets. These new developments will result in greatly increased traffic along Schermerhorn Street in both directions. One such development is directly across the street from the proposed closure and will have a major impact on traffic in the area once it is completed.

Schermerhorn Street Closure Page 2:

My district office is located in the YWCA, just two blocks from the proposed closing and I can attest to the tremendous amount of congestion that exists at the Schermerhorn, Third, Lafayette and Flatbush intersection. Closing off alternate access to Flatbush avenue will inevitably add to this bottleneck of congestion. In the event of an emergency, this would inhibit the movement of emergency vehicles including ambulances which may need access to nearby Brooklyn Hospital and FDNY Engine 226 trucks responding to calls.

I challenge Alloy's claim that this route is little known. I reject the notion that the city should deliver valuable street access to private developers simply because it enhances their property value rather than improve traffic movement. **Closing this access to Southbound Flatbush would result in more congestion in the area and likely force the traffic burden onto my neighbors and constituents on State Street.** State is a low rise brownstone street, part of which is included in Brooklyn Heights' landmarked historic district.

For these reasons and in support of the Boerum Hill community, I respectfully request that this proposal be rejected and that you disallow the closure of the access to Schermerhorn between Third and Flatbush Avenues. There are many existing open spaces in the immediate and surrounding areas that can be beautified without impeding traffic flow.

Sincerely,



State Senator Velmanette Montgomery
25th Senate District

cc: Assemblywoman Jo Anne Simon
Brooklyn Borough Commissioner Keith Bray
Councilwoman Laurie Cumbo
Councilman Stephen Levin
Assemblyman Walter Mosley
Community Board 2 members