



February 26, 2023

Ydanis Rodriguez, Commissioner  
New York City Department of Transportation  
55 Water Street  
New York, New York 10041

Dear Commissioner Rodriguez,

Traffic fatalities are too common and preventable across the City of New York, including right here in our shared communities of western Queens. Our community is tired of mourning the loss of neighbors who have died simply because they were walking down the street. Many of these senseless deaths could be avoided with simple improvements to infrastructure – changes that are barely noticeable to most people but will save lives.

The most heartbreaking of these deaths happen to children. Most recently, seven-year-old Dolma Rinchen Naadhun was killed at the intersection of 45th Street and Newtown Road — a death that the mere presence of a traffic signal may have prevented. Her young life, and her precocious spirit, could still walk among us today if not for the decisions of your agency over time. Dolma is far from the first child killed by traffic violence in western Queens – but with your leadership, she could be the last.

Search your heart, and your agency's statistics: Dolma and many slain children like her could be saved by infrastructure improvements – such as improved signaling. We are urging you to place a signal at this intersection immediately, and broaden your work to find better solutions to end the epidemic of pedestrian deaths across the City of New York.

Sincerely,

Senate Deputy Leader Michael Gianaris

Assembly Member Jessica González-Rojas