



SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS ON SKILLMAN AND 43RD AVE

To: Queens Community Board 2
CC: Nicole Garcia, Department of Transportation Queens Commissioner

Dear Queens Community Board 2,

We request your support to implement critical safety and efficiency improvements on the length of Skillman Ave and 43rd Ave, between Queens Boulevard and Roosevelt Ave.

Skillman Ave and 43rd Ave are integral East-West connections through Sunnyside for thousands of cyclists who use it every day. It connects the greenway to the Queensboro Bridge to the protected bike lanes on Queens Boulevard. It brings residents from all parts of Queens to work and back home at the end of the day.

We are sad to learn that Gelasio Reyes from Corona was killed biking home from work on 43rd Avenue, by a drunk driver. The following week another person was seriously injured at the same intersection. 43rd Ave and Skillman are not safe. Beyond these two horrible injuries, people are injured by speeding drivers on a monthly basis.

As business owners, we know that protected bike lanes and safer streets for pedestrians are shown to increase business revenue. A safer street makes a happier street vibrant with life. When the residents of my neighborhood can safely walk and bike to my business, they make more frequent stops on a weekly basis. I also look forward to residents from other neighborhoods in Queens biking past my shop on safe bike lanes.

We urge the Department of Transportation to redesign these streets in accordance to "complete street" and "street calming" principles. These principles are proven to reduce traffic crashes and improve quality of life. These include:

- Curb extensions at intersections for safer pedestrian crossings
• Lead Pedestrian Intervals - gives pedestrians a head start to cross the street
• Parking-protected bike lanes (between the parking lane and the curb)
• Daylighting - Making intersections safer and more visible for turning traffic

We look forward to working with you, to make these improvements a reality.

Sincerely,

[Handwritten signature]

Name: GARY O'NEIL / AUBERGE CAFE
Contact Person | Title:
Address: 4922 Skillman Ave
Phone Number: 718 [redacted]
Email: GONEIL [redacted]