



November 20, 2023

Dear Commissioner Rodriguez,

We are writing in support of recent community-led efforts for universal daylighting at intersections across New York City. There have been far too many tragic crash fatalities and serious injuries from turning vehicles at city intersections, each of which sit heavily with our communities. We ask that the Department of Transportation take immediate action to improve safety at intersections across the city, and work to prevent future deadly crashes.

On October 19th, the Transportation Committee of Brooklyn Community Board 1 called for universal daylighting of intersections with physical barriers. Similar motions have been passed in full by Queens CB 1 and 6, Brooklyn CB 6, and Manhattan CB 6. Daylighting entails removing parking spaces immediately adjacent to crosswalks to improve pedestrian visibility. Daylighting removes a blind spot so that turning vehicles have more lead-time and a broader view to spot pedestrians at corners and crosswalks and likewise allows pedestrians to see oncoming turning traffic sooner, increasing safety for all. Several daylighting projects in our communities have been well received and have allowed for the space to be repurposed for public realm improvements with physical barriers such as planters and stormwater retention green infrastructure. Daylighting is a simple and effective method for improving safety at dangerous intersections and quality of life.

We ask the NYC Department of Transportation to begin implementing daylighting at intersections immediately. This action is also supported by both Local Law 66 of 2023, which calls on the NYC DOT to begin investigating and implementing daylighting at 100 intersections per year by 2025, and by New York State law which currently prohibits parking within twenty feet of a crosswalk at an intersection. In a city where the Vision Zero initiative is in place, we should be leading the way forward to safer streets for every community, not continuing to exempt ourselves from common sense state legislation and ignoring dangerous intersections. To that end, New York City should exercise all efforts to maximize funds through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) which established the Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) grant program providing \$5 billion in funding over a five-year period to fund regional and local initiatives to prevent roadway deaths and serious injuries.

Thank you for your consideration, and we look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Council Member Lincoln Restler  
33rd Council District



Council Member Jennifer Gutiérrez  
34th Council District



Congresswoman Nydia M. Velázquez  
7th Congressional District of NY



Antonio Reynoso  
Brooklyn Borough President



NY State Senator Julia Salazar  
18th Senate District



NY State Senator Kristen Gonzalez  
59th Senate District



State Assembly Member Emily Gallagher  
50th Assembly District