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**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

**NYDIA M. VELAZQUEZ**  
7TH DISTRICT, NEW YORK

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August 17, 2024

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

Brooklyn Borough Commissioner Keith Bray  
New York City Department of Transportation  
55 Water Street New York, NY 10041

Dear Commissioner Rodriguez and Brooklyn Borough Commissioner Bray,

I am writing in support of having the Bedford Slip Pedestrian Plaza in my district continue beyond August 12th. I understand that this pilot project was initiated during the G train shutdown to create more public space in Greenpoint. It has been very successful. I have constituents who would like the plaza to remain, having advocated for a permanent Bedford Slip Plaza since 2021, hosting nearly a dozen community events, and collecting over 3,100 signatures. They have worked to create more space for people at one of the busiest pedestrian intersections in North Brooklyn.

NYC DOT's piloting Bedford Slip Pedestrian Plaza has allowed our community to experience firsthand how it functions day-to-day. Over the past number of weeks, with the support of the North Brooklyn Parks Alliance and local volunteers, the plaza has become a very positive addition to the neighborhood giving a pedestrian refuge, better managed vending and pedestrian flow from the nearby train station. The need for a slip lane of traffic at the end of Bedford Avenue to make the northward left turn onto Manhattan Avenue could be replaced by permitting vehicles to make the left turn from Nassau Avenue, which you are likely studying. Additionally, local businesses on that short Bedford strip could be afforded loading zones on Manhattan Avenue adjacent to Bedford Avenue.

I urge your agency to continue this vital public space project as a permanent fixture. This space has become an invaluable resource for our community and visitors alike, providing a safe and welcoming public space. I urge you to give this full and fair consideration, consistent with applicable rules, law and regulations.

Thank you for your consideration on this matter.

Sincerely,



Nydia M. Velázquez  
Member of Congress