



Christopher Marte

紐約市市議員馬泰 Council Member, District 1

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August 28, 2025

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

Subject: Unacceptable Delay of FiDi Street Redesign Plan

Dear Commissioner Rodriguez,

I am writing in regards to the Department of Transportation's long overdue Lower Manhattan Pedestrian Priority Street Study, to request this study immediately begin. The Financial District has changed tremendously in the past two decades, from a largely commercial corridor to a vibrant residential community. With these changes comes a need to redesign the streetscape to match the new uses of the neighborhood, something that the community has been advocating for, money had been allocated to, and the DOT agreed to do. However, it has been six years since the DOT committed to doing this study, and no work has begun. This betrayal of a promise made to the community is unacceptable, and we will no longer accept any excuses.

The idea of a study to pedestrianize the Financial District dates back to 1997, under Mayor Rudy Giuliani, however it took over 20 years to finally get action from the Department of Transportation. In that time, multiple community groups, such as the Downtown Alliance and Financial District Neighborhood Association, commissioned their own studies that have highlighted the immense benefits to Lower Manhattan by redesigning the streetscape of FiDi. In a neighborhood with extremely narrow streets and an increasing number of residents, the current vehicular traffic does not work. Trucks get stuck, cars get backed up, and illegal parking restricts access to the street, all of which negatively impacts the community. Whether it be the noise from honking or the pollution from thousands of idling vehicles a day stuck in traffic, these traffic patterns are incompatible with the uses of the neighborhood. And as much of the nearby waterfront is going to be closed over the next decade for resiliency projects, the residents of Lower Manhattan need open space now.

Since taking office, I have been assured almost every season that the study will start the next season. When it has been Winter, I was told the study would start that Spring. When Spring came, I was told the study would start in Summer, and so on. Community Board 1 has similarly been given the runaround, having asked for this study for years with no updates. This past

January 2025, Community Board 1 was informed the study would start later this year. When the community has been told that for six years, it is impossible to believe.

The time for excuses is over. The Department of Transportation must begin the study this Fall, or else all trust with the community will be gone, and I will expect the \$500,000 allocated to this study to be returned to my Council office's discretionary budget.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Christopher Marte', with a stylized, cursive script.

Christopher Marte
New York City Council Member
District 1 - Lower Manhattan