

September 30th, 2024

Ydanis Rodriguez  
Commissioner, Department of Transportation  
28-11 Queens Plaza North  
Long Island City, NY 11101

Re: Community Expansion Request for Honey Locust Park

Dear Commissioner Rodriguez,

We are writing in regard to the enclosed petition asking that Honey Locust Park (59th Street near the Queensboro Bridge) be expanded by utilizing land under the jurisdiction of the Department of Transportation. Our offices have received concerns from constituents that this underused space has become an eyesore for the community and can be repurposed for community benefit.

Since the early 2000s, the Department of Transportation (DOT) began using the area for storage, including vehicle parking. Local residents of the Lenox Hill and Sutton Place neighborhoods are asking to create a Honey Locust Park Extension to serve as a public plaza consisting of a garden, eatery, tables, seating, a dog park, or other amenities. The upcoming conversion of the Queensboro Bridge South Outer Roadway into a pedestrian path presents a prime opportunity to repurpose the space and provide convenient access to the new pedestrian route.

The East Side of Manhattan ranks as one of the densest in New York City and nearly last in green space, we share the opinion of our constituents that any underutilized space should be reconsidered to prioritize greenery and public outdoor recreation. Allowing this parcel of land to be under the jurisdiction of the Department of Parks & Recreation, coupled with its proximity to the highly frequented 59th Street bridge, would benefit local residents as well as serve the many thousands of pedestrians and cyclists that cross the bridge daily. Expanding open space would significantly enhance the health and well-being of the community, especially for elderly residents who rely on local resources and outdoor spaces.

We respectfully request that you consider the feasibility of relocating current storage and vehicles for bridge maintenance so that this request can be realized. This initiative would be an excellent opportunity to create a vibrant public space that fosters community engagement, promotes outdoor activity, and improves the overall quality of life.

Thank you for your courtesy and cooperation in regard to this matter and we look forward to your prompt response.

Very truly yours,



Council Member Julie Menin



Senator Liz Krueger



Assembly Member Alex Bores