



December 20th, 2023

Department of Transportation
55 Water St.
New York, NY 10041

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 intersections. We ask that the Department of Transportation take immediate action to improve safety at intersections across the city by universally daylighting with hardened materials such as boulders, planters, and bike corrals.

On June 21, 2023, Queens Community Board 1's full board passed a resolution calling for universal daylighting of intersections with physical barriers. Similar motions have since been passed in full by Brooklyn Community Board 6, Queens Community Board 6, and Manhattan Community Board 6, as well as Brooklyn Community Board 1 and Manhattan Community Board 8's Transportation Committees. This November, we released our [Western Queens Street Safety Plan](#), which calls in part for universal daylighting throughout Western Queens. This plan came after 13 deaths due to traffic violence and 900+ crashes in Western Queens. Daylighting saves lives, and can prevent future deaths and crashes.

Daylighting entails re-allocating parking spaces immediately adjacent to crosswalks to improve pedestrian, cyclist, and driver 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 people walking and biking 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. Just across the river, Hoboken has implemented daylighting at every intersection, resulting in no pedestrian deaths in over 4 years, and a 35% decrease in pedestrian injuries caused by vehicles.

In light of the Queens Community Board 1 resolution and the Mayor's announcement to daylight 1,000 intersections in 2024, 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 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 Tiffany Cabán
22nd Council District



State Assembly Member Jessica González-Rojas
34th Assembly District



State Assembly Member Zohran Mamdani
36th Assembly District