

Dear Commissioner Flynn,

We write as elected representatives of New York City to applaud the tremendous growth of the Summer Streets program and urge the NYC Department of Transportation to take bold steps to expand this transformative initiative.

Since its inception in 2008, Summer Streets has proven that New Yorkers want safe, car-free spaces. The program has evolved from a modest experiment into one of the city's most cherished annual traditions, attracting thousands of participants each summer. Families biking together, children learning to ride for the first time, seniors walking without fear of traffic, and neighbors enjoying cultural programming along the route demonstrate that Summer Streets has become more than an event; it is a celebration of community, health, and the potential of our public realm.

The NYCDOT's expansion of Summer Streets to all five boroughs marked a milestone in reimagining what is possible for New York City's streets. The response from residents has been overwhelmingly positive. We have seen not only high participation rates but also broad enthusiasm from small businesses, cultural institutions, and community groups that benefit from increased foot traffic and greater visibility. By reclaiming roadways from cars, Summer Streets offers an inclusive vision of urban life that prioritizes people and public space.

We believe the next step is to build on this momentum by expanding the program's frequency and connectivity. Currently, Summer Streets operates on just a handful of Saturdays in July and August. Limiting this opportunity to a few scattered days restricts its potential impact. More dates would allow a greater diversity of New Yorkers to participate, especially those who may be unavailable on the existing dates due to work, family, or religious commitments.

Equally important is the need for an interconnected route. Currently, Summer Streets consists of segmented corridors that showcase what our streets can become, but they do not yet form a cohesive network. By linking routes across boroughs and neighborhoods, the NYCDOT could create a continuous car-free backbone for walking, biking, and recreation. An interconnected route would not only encourage active transportation but also bring communities together, helping residents experience the city in a healthier, more sustainable, and more equitable way.

Summer Streets has already demonstrated measurable public benefits: reduced emissions, safer streets, improved public health outcomes, and stronger community ties. Expanding its scope will multiply these benefits, positioning New York City as a global leader in sustainable urban design and public space innovation. We urge the NYCDOT to seize this opportunity to make Summer Streets a cornerstone of New York City's identity, a summer-long celebration of public space that reflects the vibrancy, diversity, and creativity of our communities. Thank you for your leadership and for considering this request. We look forward to partnering with you to realize a bigger, better, and more connected Summer Streets.

Sincerely,

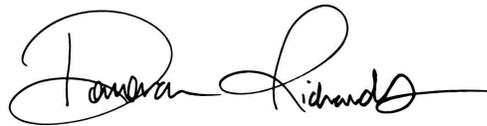
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Council Speaker Julie Menin



Queens Borough President Donovan Richards



Senator Michael Gianaris



Former Council Member Keith Powers



Assembly Member Tony Simone



Assembly Member Brian Cunningham



Bronx Borough President Vanessa Gibson



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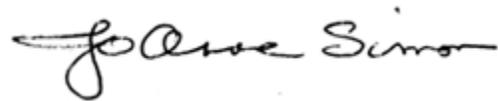
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Council Majority Leader Shaun Abreu



Assembly Member Robert Carroll



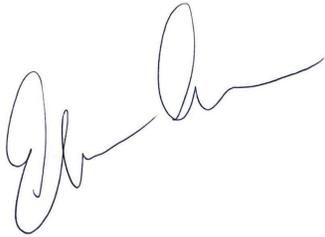
Council Member Erik Bottcher

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Council Member Gale Brewer

Handwritten signature of Gale A. Brewer in black ink.

Council Member Elsie Encarnacion

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