



June 12, 2017

Polly Trottenberg, Commissioner
New York City Department of Transportation
55 Water Street
New York, NY 10041

Dear Commissioner Trottenberg,

We, the undersigned elected officials from Central Brooklyn, wish to inform you of our significant opposition to the planned bike lane on Classon Avenue. We believe the decision to convert the existing lane into a conventional bike lane on the west side of the street will not increase safety but will in fact cause additional fatalities. The B48 bus already shares Classon Avenue with a heavy amount of car and commercial traffic that uses this route to access the Brooklyn Queens Expressway. Notably, the 88th Precinct is also located on Classon Avenue and it is vital that they have unfettered access during emergencies.

As you are aware, there has been a significant increase in housing development over the past four years and the number of people and vehicles has resulted in major delays for delivery operators trying to deliver their goods and services. Additionally, we believe the bike lane will slow down traffic and impede businesses from the timely delivery of goods and services, which will cause additional congestion and pollution.

Furthermore, the Department of Transportation (DOT) has installed bike lanes on Bedford Avenue, Franklin Avenue, Marcy Avenue, and Tompkins Avenue. This leaves only Nostrand Avenue for commercial vehicles, which is further impacted by dedicated bus lanes. Bedford Stuyvesant is home to over 1,500 small businesses and 150,000 residents; they cannot be expected to use one thoroughfare to avoid cyclists. As Commissioner Bray indicates in his letter, bike lanes remove commercial parking for small business owners and street parking for shoppers, which again has a deleterious impact on economic development in our districts.

These decisions by DOT have severely compromised commerce in the city. At a time when both the Governor and the Mayor are focused on helping small, brick and mortar businesses grow; DOT is not doing its part to assist in these efforts.

As elected officials who are charged with supporting the needs of all constituents (bicyclists and motorists), we cannot and will not support one group over another. We understand and sympathize with the on-going loss the Davis family is experiencing. However, DOT needs to think of other ways to keep bikers safety other than instituting a quick fix that we sincerely believe will have an outcome of more injuries and fatalities than none.

It is important that the members of the communities impacted all along Classon Avenue be included in this conversation. We believe this plan needs more study and would be willing to host a community discussion to address this issue in a more fair and equitable matter.

Sincerely,



Velmanette Montgomery
NYS Assembly Member

Tremaine S. Wright
Assembly Member
56th Assembly District



Robert E. Cornegy, Jr.
NYC Council Member
36th Council District



Richard Flateau
Chair
Brooklyn Community Board 3