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City of New York
Queens Community Board 1
45-02 Ditmars Boulevard, Suite 1025
Astoria, NY 11105

June 16, 2015

I wish to express my support for the safety measures proposed by the Department of Transportation that will be voted on by the full Community Board tonight.

Over the last several years, including prior to taking office as a member of the New York City Council, I have received many complaints from residents of the proposed Slow Zone about through traffic. Many of these streets feed into Astoria Boulevard, the Triborough/Robert F. Kennedy Bridge, and the Grand Central Parkway, and as a consequence, cars will often speed down these quiet residential blocks. 33rd Street in particular has been a focus of constituent complaints. My office is around the corner from 33rd Street, and my staff and I have witnessed numerous instances where cars and trucks speed down the block to make the following light. Not only is this loud and disruptive, but potentially dangerous – a pedestrian hit by a car traveling at 40 miles per hour has only a 30% chance of survival. Families living along these streets deserve peace of mind, and I believe that this plan strikes the appropriate balance between the needs of the homes along the side streets and those of the adjacent commercial thoroughfares, which will not be included in the Slow Zone. I am also pleased that this plan will include gateway signage that is appropriate and contextual to the neighborhood.

Accordingly, I believe that the proposed Slow Zone will be of great benefit to the health and safety of our neighborhood, and I ask that the Community Board approve this project. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Costa Constantinides
New York City Council, 22nd District