



THE COUNCIL  
OF

THE CITY OF NEW YORK

**SANDRA UNG**

COUNCIL MEMBER, 20<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT, QUEENS

**DISTRICT OFFICE**

135-27 38TH AVENUE, SUITE 388  
FLUSHING, NY 11354

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

**PHONE NUMBER:** (718) 888-8747

**FAX:** (718) 888-0333

**EMAIL:** [district20@council.nyc.gov](mailto:district20@council.nyc.gov)

Ydanis Rodriguez  
Commissioner, Department of Transportation  
55 Water Street, 9th Floor  
New York, NY 10041

March 9, 2022

Dear Commissioner Rodriguez:

I am writing to you regarding an issue that was brought to my attention regarding camera-enforced restrictions along the Flushing Main Street Busway. Specifically, I am concerned about a seemingly high number of violations issued from a camera regulating the intersection of 37<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Main Street due to unclear signage.

Currently, there are two signs alerting motorists they are required to turn right at 37<sup>th</sup> Avenue. The first is only a few hundred feet from the intersection, while the second is at the intersection itself - both signs are simple white signs, and do not stand out in the streetscape. There is also a Do Not Enter sign on the southwest corner of the intersection, but it is relatively small. Given the congested nature of Downtown Flushing, it is easy to see how a distracted driver could overlook the signs. Outside of those two signs, there are no other markings delineating the Busway is about to begin.

Furthermore, the markings on the street seem to suggest there is a right-hand turn lane and that only vehicles in that lane — not all cars — are required to make the right-hand turn off Main Street.

Some motorists who received tickets say they were unaware of the new regulations. Because it can sometimes take 2-3 weeks for a summons to arrive by mail, some received multiple violations before they realized they were even committing an infraction. Given the location directly off of Northern Boulevard, this is an intersection likely to see a larger number of visitors who do not live in Flushing and are therefore even less likely to be aware of the busway.



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While the drivers were violating traffic laws, many are doing so unintentionally because they are unaware of the busway's existence. I feel more can be done by the Department of Transportation (DOT) to ensure that drivers are aware of the changes, and that summonses are never issued in the first place.

One possible solution is to install larger and more conspicuous signage alerting drivers to the upcoming Busway. The "Do Not Enter" sign in particular can be made larger, and DOT should consider making the "All Traffic Must Turn Right at Next Intersection Except Trucks and Buses" stand out visually. Another is to paint the Busway red to signal to motorists it is not a general traffic lane. In fact, this is exactly the measure that was taken in Downtown Jamaica.

Flushing has one of the largest populations of immigrant New Yorkers in the city, including many who have Limited English Proficiency (LEP). Flushing is also a destination for Asian Americans from across the northeast, who come to Flushing to shop for groceries and other items that they cannot find outside of Flushing.

I believe the DOT can take some fair and simple steps to alert motorists to these changes without resorting to costly fines.

I look forward to hearing from your office regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sandra Ung". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Sandra Ung  
Council Member, District 20  
CC: Nicole Garcia  
Queens Deputy Borough Commissioner