



August 14, 2019

Commissioner Polly Trottenberg  
Department of Transportation  
55 Water Street, 9th Floor  
New York, NY 10041

Dear Commissioner Trottenberg,

In the wake of two horrible tragedies this summer, we write to urge the Department of Transportation to expedite the planned traffic safety study of Coney Island Avenue and promptly apply traffic calming measures to this corridor. Urgent action is required to prevent dangerous driving and additional fatalities on a demonstrably hazardous street.

Cyclist Jose Alzorritz was the second person to be killed by a reckless driver on Coney Island Avenue, and the 19th cyclist killed just this year. The stretch of Coney Island from Caton to Avenue P is well known to be particularly unsafe. Streetsblog [reported](#) that in the year from July 2018 to July 2019, there were 578 crashes, injuring 19 cyclists, 43 pedestrians and 114 drivers.

Just last week, the family of Maria del Carmen Porras Hernandez, who was killed at the intersection of Coney Island and Church Avenues, held a vigil to commemorate her life and urge street safety measures. On Wednesday August 14, the community will hold another vigil to commemorate Jose.

We are grateful for the DOT's commitment to make safety improvements at the intersection of Coney Island and Church Avenue where Porras Hernandez was killed, and we understand that the DOT is in the process of studying a section of Coney Island Avenue from Park Circle to Caton Avenue. These are important steps, but cover a small segment of the dangerous corridor. DOT identified Coney Island Avenue, from Prospect Park south to Coney Island, as a "priority corridor" on the Vision Zero Pedestrian Safety Action Plan back in 2015, but we have not yet seen meaningful action on the corridor. We cannot wait any longer.

We have yet to hear a firm timeline for studying the rest of Coney Island Avenue, including the intersection where Sunday's tragic crash occurred. It is of particular importance to prevent drivers from making high speed turns, sometimes at a wide radius from an outside lane, and take other measures to prevent speeding.

We call on the Department take immediate steps to outline a clear, specific timeline for studying, recommending, and implementing traffic safety improvements on Coney Island Avenue, at least from Caton Avenue to Avenue P, before the next crash. We cannot wait

any longer for urgent, proven safety measures on this dangerous corridor. Each day and month that goes by risks yet another tragedy.

Thank you for your attention. We look forward to your response.

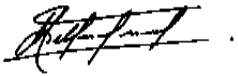
Sincerely,



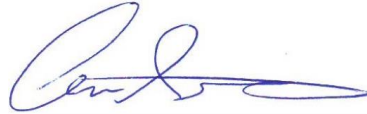
Brad Lander  
Council Member  
Brooklyn, District 39



Robert Carroll  
Assembly Member  
Brooklyn, District 44



Mathieu Eugene  
Council Member  
Brooklyn, District 40



Andrew Gounardes  
State Senator  
Brooklyn, District 22