

October 16, 2023

Dear Mr. Ballman,

I write to enthusiastically support the Rotary Park plan to transform the areas surrounding and at the center of the Holland Tunnel Rotary. By rethinking the open spaces of this vital piece of infrastructure as a passive green asset, the Rotary Park plan will unlock the multipurpose potential of the Rotary for the direct benefit of all New Yorkers.

Today, the open areas of the Rotary consist of a gravel cover at the center and planted areas at the periphery. Replacing and embellishing these areas with both active and passive green spaces, utilizing native plants and absorbent soil, will work to combat climate-related flooding, poor air quality, and rising temperatures in the local area. I applaud Rotary Park's initiative in confronting these issues head on.

The effects of climate change and the increased frequency of extreme weather events require all New Yorkers to find innovative solutions, and I believe it is the responsibility of our government and authorities to support these efforts as they align with our shared climate resiliency goals. Through thoughtful intervention and modest financial investment, Rotary Park serves as a model for transforming underutilized spaces like the Holland Tunnel Rotary for the betterment of our city, and I am happy to share my support for this project.

Sincerely,

Christopher Marte

New York City Council Member