



June 28, 2022

Ydanis Rodriguez
Commissioner
New York City Department of Transportation
55 Water Street
New York, NY 10041

Commissioner Rodriguez:

We are writing to you with regard to the recent traffic crash at 29th Street and Broadway. Following this tragedy that critically injured five pedestrians, we write to request that your agency declare Broadway between 14th and 34th Streets a limited access open street to protect New Yorkers. Furthermore, we request that NYC DOT take a more comprehensive approach to the entire corridor by immediately studying strategies for pedestrianizing Broadway between 14th and 34th Streets, with plans for implementation developed in coordination with local stakeholders and the community board by early 2023 (Phase I), to soon be followed in the later months of 2023 with additional pedestrian improvements on Broadway between 34th and 42nd Streets (Phase II). This stretch of Broadway needs to be made safer, and we believe pedestrianization, with limited necessary entries for vehicles that must access certain points along Broadway, could be a way to positively transform the area and benefit all New Yorkers.

NYC DOT has done commendable work to date to improve the pedestrian and cycling experience on Broadway, and the Mayor has just recently announced a series of important steps the City is taking to redesign Broadway. The pinnacle of this work was the pedestrianization of Broadway in Times Square starting in 2009, but more recent work too in the Garment District and around the Flatiron, in close and successful partnership with Business Improvement Districts such as Union Square Partnership, the Flatiron NoMad Partnership, the 34th Street Partnership, the Garment District Alliance and Times Square Alliance, to create shared streets and temporary plazas has been enormously successful.

These improvements have been positive, but it is time that we take a significant step forward for public safety: a comprehensively planned corridor that prioritizes pedestrians, cyclists and safety. Indeed, crash statistics back up the need to further limit cars as, according to NYC Crash Mapper, between August 2011 and May 2022, 205 pedestrians, 102 cyclists, and 122 vehicle occupants (429 in total) have still been injured along Broadway between 14th and 42nd Streets; tragically, 4 pedestrians have been killed along this stretch during this time as well.

We understand this timeline is aggressive—and have therefore proposed this phased approach—but we believe that a safer, more pedestrian-friendly corridor must be achieved quickly. We look forward to reviewing your plans for this thoroughfare and in working together to make Broadway a more welcoming and safer place for all of its users.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mark Levine".

Mark Levine
Manhattan Borough President

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Carlina Rivera".

Carlina Rivera
City Council Member

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Keith Powers".

Keith Powers
City Council Member

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Erik Bottcher".

Erik Bottcher
City Council Member