

Boerum Hill Association
Canal West Coalition
Coal. to Stop Commercial Traffic on Bay Ridge and Fort Hamilton Parkways
Gowanus Expressway Community Coalition and
Lower Washington Heights Neighborhood Association
New York City Environmental Justice Alliance
Natural Resources Defense Council
Nos Quedamos/We Stay
The Point Community Development Corporation
Pratt Institute Center for Community and Environmental Development
Queens Civic Congress
Trees Not Trucks
Tri-State Transportation Campaign
UPROSE
We Can't Breathe
Youth Ministries for Peace and Justice

September 20, 2000

Commissioner Iris Weinshall
New York City Department of Transportation
40 Worth Street
New York, NY 10007

Re: Truck Route Study

Dear Commissioner Weinshall:

Congratulations on your appointment as Commissioner of New York City's Department of Transportation.

One of your oft quoted goals is reported to be the reduction of "traffic, traffic, traffic." Like all New Yorkers we agree that traffic is a major concern. However, delay is not the only problem. Safety of pedestrians and drivers, property damage from overused streets and air and noise pollution are other negative effects of congestion in the city.

Last year, the New York City Department of Transportation attempted to begin a study of truck routes in the city called "Freight Vehicle Operating Needs Assessment and Design Program." According to the RFP the goal of the study was, "to increase the efficiency of freight operations." Unfortunately safety, property damage and noise pollution were not stated goals. Nor was there a robust outreach program imagined for the study. As a consequence 25 community groups and 19 elected officials objected to the goals of the RFP and requested that it be changed. [See enclosed sign-on letter.]

In February 2000, the Federal Highway Administration wrote that it had several concerns with the study and suggested changes that would make it more eligible for funding. [See enclosed memo from Harold Brown.]

A small group from our organizations would like to meet with you to discuss the issue further. We believe that many changes could be made that would improve safety and efficiency simultaneously. Please contact either Omar Freilla of the New York City Environmental Justice Alliance at 212-239-8882 or Lisa Schreiber of the Tri-State Transportation Campaign at 212-268-7474 to arrange a meeting.

Thank you for your attention, we look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,

Jo Anne Simon
Boerum Hill Association
356 Fulton Street 3rd Floor
Brooklyn, NY 11201

Richard Barrett, President
Canal West Coalition
533 Canal Street
New York, NY 10013

Bob Cassara, Chair
Coalition to Stop Commercial Traffic on Bay
Ridge and Fort Hamilton Parkways
973 Bay Ridge Parkway
Brooklyn, NY 11228

Jo Anne Simon
Gowanus Expressway Community Coal.
356 Fulton Street 3rd Floor
Brooklyn, NY 11201

John Culpepper, President
Lower Washington Heights Neighborhood
Association
501 West 156th Street Suite 31
New York, NY 10032

Rich Kassel, Attorney
Natural Resources Defense Council
40 West 20th Street
New York, NY 10011

Omar Freilla, Transportation Coord.
New York City Environmental Justice Alliance
115 West 30th Street
New York, NY 10001

Curtis Seyfried, Project Manager
Nos Quedamos/We Stay
811 Courtlandt Ave.
Bronx, NY. 10452

Paul Lipson, Executive Director
The Point Comm. Development Corp.
940 Garrison Avenue
Bronx, NY 10474

Ron Shiffman, Executive Director
Pratt Institute Center for Community and
Environmental Development
379 Dekalb Avenue
Brooklyn, NY 11205

John Liu & Tina Chan
Transportation Co-Chairs
Queens Civic Congress
143-07 Bayside Ave.
Bayside, NY 11354

Carl Rosenstein, President
Trees Not Trucks
435 Broome St
New York, NY 10013

Janine Bauer, Executive Director
Tri-State Transportation Campaign
240 West 35th Street Suite 801
New York, NY 10001

David Crane
We Can't Breathe
522 East 6th Street #7
New York, NY 10009

Elizabeth Yeampierre Exec. Director
UPROSE
5417 4th Avenue
Brooklyn, NY 11220

Alexie Torres-Flemming, Exec. Director
Youth Ministries for Peace and Justice
1372 Stratford Avenue
Bronx, NY 10472