



March 16, 2021

Hon. Andrew Cuomo
Governor of the State Of New York
State Capitol
Albany, New York 12224

Dear Governor Cuomo:

As the elected officials representing the Highbridge neighborhood as well as the area in the scope of this project, we write to urge your office to address resident concerns about the work that is currently being undertaken on the Major Deegan Expressway through a contract overseen by the New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) and the negative impact the project will have upon the ability of many Bronx families to safely access and enjoy the beautiful vistas and parks that are within a short distance of their homes.

The NYSDOT's plan will reduce riverfront access in the area along the Depot Place Bridge by replacing one of the existing sidewalks, near the on-ramp to I-87 South (the Deegan Expressway), with a 5-foot shared path for bicycles and pedestrians, making it less safe for local families to use this southern access point to the Harlem River Greenway, Bridge Park South, Bridge Park North and Roberto Clemente State Park.

Instead of prioritizing safe access for bicyclists and pedestrians, this plan expends valuable space into a parking lot for NYPD vehicles. The Harlem River Working Group, the Bronx Council for Environmental Quality, Transportation Alternatives, and Bronx Community Board 4, as well as our constituents, have all raised objections to this plan.

In summary, the Major Deegan project as currently envisioned appears to significantly limit much-needed access to the local waterfront.

We appreciate the time NYSDOT staff has taken to discuss the Major Deegan project with us, and look forward to maintaining a productive relationship moving forward. We thank you for considering changes to the ongoing Deegan work and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Adriano Espaillat
Member of Congress
NY-13, The Bronx

Ritchie Torres
Member of Congress
NY-15, The Bronx

José M. Serrano
NY State Senator
SD-29, The Bronx

Latoya Joyner
Member of Assembly
AD-77, The Bronx

Vanessa L. Gibson
New York City Council Member
16th District, The Bronx

cc. Hon. Bill de Blasio, Mayor
Ms. Marie Therese Dominguez, Commissioner NYSDOT
Margaret Forgione, Acting Commissioner & Chief Operations Officer NYCDOT