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October 15, 2012

Commissioner Janette Sadik-Kahn
Department of Transportation
55 Water Street
New York, NY 10041

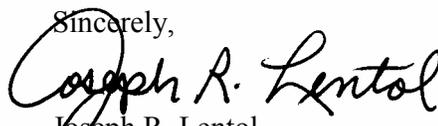
Dear Commissioner Sadik-Kahn:

I am writing to advocate for the creation of a bike lane on the Pulaski Bridge. As you know the bridge is currently configured with three motor vehicle lanes on each side and a single pedestrian walkway on the southbound side. Recently a group of concerned pedestrians and cyclists came to me to ask for help mediating the problems between the foot and bike traffic on the walkway.

Last week I held a meeting at my office with some of these constituents as well as representatives from Brooklyn Borough DOT and Transportation Alternatives to discuss the situation. The problem is that crashes between pedestrians and cyclists, while infrequent, happen often enough that many pedestrians are constantly afraid of getting hit by a cyclist. The situation is bad enough that some people have stopped walking over the bridge all together because of the danger.

In this day and age with cycling on the rise I believe it is time to examine whether or not a motor vehicle lane on the bridge should be converted to a protected bike lane, separated from both vehicle and pedestrian traffic. I understand that there are inherent engineering challenges that need to be overcome, but I have faith in your ability to motivate the DOT engineers to make it happen.

I look forward to working with you on this issue. Please call me or my staff person Eric Radezky at 718-383-7474 if you have any questions or comments.

Sincerely,

Joseph R. Lentol