Dear Councilmember Vacca,

On behalf of my associates and myself, I want to thank you for affording us an opportunity to present our concerns about the current configuration of the bike lane on Prospect Park West.

I was very impressed by your forceful, yet polite efforts to keep the committee as well as those who testified focused on the major issues of how the DOT does its business, the costs involved, the role communities should play in the planning for, implementation and evaluation of whether intended bike lane and traffic calming approaches are working. Absent such insights it will remain extremely difficult to allocate scarce city transportation resources effectively while assuring the safety of all New Yorkers, goals you are committed to.

It was apparent to me from the give and take, as I believe it was clearly to you, once the obfuscation and half-truths were set aside more effective strategies need to be developed and employed to find the proper and safe equitable balance of these important objectives. My testimony includes some specific approaches to help achieve those ends. I hope you will consider them and I'd be happy to discuss them further if you'd like.

Best regards,

Norman Steisel

PS. I regret you took some undeserved abuse for the courteousness you extended me. I really appreciated you're being stand up guy.

PPS. Best wishes to you and yours for the holiday season ahead.