April 24, 2013

The Honorable Joseph Lentol
Assembly Member, 50th District
619 Lorimer Street
Brooklyn, NY 11211

Dear Assembly Member Lentol:

This is a follow-up letter to the response we sent to you on December 21, 2012 regarding the possibility of creating a dedicated bicycle path on the Pulaski Bridge.

Since December, we have analyzed traffic data and we are confident that one Brooklyn-bound traffic lane can be removed from the Pulaski Bridge without an adverse effect on traffic flow. This lane could then be converted to a two-way bicycle path, leaving the existing path as a pedestrian only walkway. Adding the exclusive bicycle path and converting the existing walkway to pedestrian only is a worthwhile project, which would reduce friction on the existing path, which is increasingly well used. However, there are some engineering questions remaining about how to properly design and install such a bicycle path on the bridge. To resolve these questions, we are initiating an engineering study with a structural engineering consultant. We expect the study and recommendations to be completed later in 2013.

The study will focus on how to provide a suitable barrier between the new bicycle path and traffic, how to integrate the new and existing barriers and how to accommodate cyclists on the joints in the movable bridge. The new improvements must be compatible with existing structure and functionality of the movable bridge. We appreciate your continued interest in improving cycling and walking conditions on the Pulaski Bridge.

We will update you when the investigation is complete and we have received the recommendations. Thank you for your interest in improving the NYC bicycle network.

Sincerely,

Janette Sadik-Khan
Commissioner

JSKchl:wmm
CCU 12-9934; AM 955
c: Brooklyn Community Board 1, Queens Community Board 2, B/C J. Palmieri, B/C D. Hall

NYC Department of Transportation
Office of the Commissioner
55 Water Street, New York, NY 10041
T: 212.839.6400 F:212.839.6453
www.nyc.gov/dot