

COMMUNITY BOARD 6, QUEENS

MAY 2014

Resolution Regarding the Safety of Queens Boulevard To the New York City Department of Transportation

WHEREAS Queens Boulevard has long been known as a dangerous street, nicknamed the “Boulevard of Death;” and,

WHEREAS in 2013 alone 6 Queens residents died and 492 people were seriously injured; and,

WHEREAS in the confines of Community Board 6 two Senior Pedestrian Safety Areas have been identified by the Department of Transportation along Queens Boulevard and its adjoining streets in Rego Park and Forest Hills due to the very high incidence of collisions involving senior citizens; and,

WHEREAS the population of Queens is growing faster than any other borough in the City, and several new large residential construction projects have begun or are scheduled to soon begin in our District along or close to Queens Blvd; and,

WHEREAS recent years has seen significant growth of commercial spaces along the Boulevard including the building of the Rego Park Mall 2 and the expansion of the Queens Center Mall immediately adjacent to our District; and,

WHEREAS the increasing population and commercial development brings more cars, pedestrians and people riding bikes to our streets, increasing the likelihood of conflicts and collisions between users of the Boulevard; and,

WHEREAS as the population and commercial development continues to increase, transportation demands also increase and there is a need to increase the capacity of mass transit and provide for alternative means of transportation along the Boulevard; and,

WHEREAS despite welcomed safety improvements over the years, collisions, injuries and fatalities are again on the rise. Prior safety improvements were insufficient and real infrastructure changes are necessary to address the current need to improve safety on the Boulevard; and,

WHEREAS the New York City Department of Transportation has developed a number of "Complete Street" safety designs and practices that could be applied to Queens Boulevard to make it a safer and more efficient street for all road users; and,

WHEREAS the Community Board has been provided with over 3,300 petition signatures, and over 200 letters from businesses, schools, senior centers, faith-based organizations, and community organizations along Queens Boulevard asking that it be studied by the NYC Department of Transportation to develop the feasibility of a redesign along complete street principles; and,

WHEREAS the Mayor of the City of New York has established as a goal of City agencies, and the Department of Transportation in particular, to work to reduce traffic fatalities and injuries to zero; and,

WHEREAS all five members of the New York City Council whose districts include sections of Queens Boulevard have issued a joint letter to the Department of Transportation calling on it to make Queens Boulevard one of its key priorities in enacting the City's Vision Zero Initiative; now,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT Community Board 6 requests that the New York City Department of Transportation:

1. Conduct a comprehensive study on the feasibility of a redesign of the entire length of Queens Boulevard, in particular in Community Board Six, along Complete Street principles in order to make the Boulevard safer for all road users; and,
2. Involve Community Board Six, and the residents and community groups within it, in the study, planning and redesign of the street.