

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3205

July 11, 2023

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590-0001

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I write in support of the application submitted by the New York City Department of Transportation (NYCDOT) for funding from the Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Grant Program through the U.S. Department of Transportation. This funding will be used to promote and advance New York City's Safe System-aligned Vision Zero initiative with a focus area on Queens Boulevard in Queens, New York, and expand the New York City Intelligent Speeding Assist program that supports initiatives managed by the New York City Department of Transportation, the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH), and the New York City Department of Citywide Administrative Services (DCAS).

Speeding is the primary cause of traffic deaths and injuries across New York City. NYC Vision Zero action plan has been working towards building a safer city for all drivers and pedestrians. Queens Boulevard is an arterial route that was once known as "The Boulevard of Death." For more than 30 years, Queens Boulevard has witnessed Nearly 200 New Yorkers lose their lives due to traffic crashes on Queens Boulevard. New York City 2014 improvements along Queens Boulevard have greatly reduced fatalities along the corridor. However, the project area remains in the top 10 percent for Killed or Seriously Injured (KSI) in Queens. New York City Vision Zero action plan reflects New York City's commitment to preventing traffic crashes through better street design, innovative operational and behavioral changes powered by technology, and an understanding of traffic injuries based on post-crash care.

The requested funding will be used to continue to build on New York City's robust Vision Zero action plan. This funding would allow NYC to advance many of the significant strides in safety improvements that would enhance the safety of the 12-lane Queens Boulevard artery. This effort will aid in increasing surveillance projects that would supply details on traffic-related fatalities and injuries that are routinely available in police-sourced crash reports, allow mortality and hospital visit dates to describe in additional detail, the person injured and the injury, and expand the understanding of micro-mobility injuries which have been a growing concern in New York City.

I ask that you please give this application your full consideration. If you have any questions or desire further information, please do not hesitate to contact my staff member, Abi Jimenez, at (202) 224-4451.

Sincerely,



Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator