

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

February 28, 2024

Secretary Pete Buttigieg
U.S. Department of Transportation
Office of the Secretary of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I write today to offer my strong support for the Metropolitan Transportation Authority's (MTA) application for USDOT RAISE grant funding for design of the **Interborough Express Project (IBX)**.

Governor Hochul has identified the Interborough Express Project as a key transportation priority that will provide a generational investment in regional mobility for New Yorkers. This transformational project will provide new transportation options and increase equitable access for rapidly growing and historically underinvested neighborhoods from Sunset Park, Brooklyn to Jackson Heights, Queens, connecting to 17 of New York City's 22 subway lines, dozens of bus lines and the Long Island Rail Road. 900,000 people live within ½ mile of the alignment, and over 60% of the census tracts in the corridor are designated as Historically Disadvantaged Communities. The project offers new connections to residents and workers in these communities who often rely on Manhattan-centric rapid transit to travel within or between Brooklyn and Queens to access work opportunities, healthcare, schools and other services. These new connections will improve equity, and the line will reduce greenhouse gas emissions by removing cars from city streets and ensuring that New York City remains one of the least carbon-intensive cities in the country.

The IBX project complements the MTA's efforts to implement congestion pricing, a program which will make New York safer, less polluted, and more public-transit friendly. This project will ensure that low-income communities throughout Brooklyn and Queens that have had to suffer through long, onerous commutes to a subway or bus station, will have easy access to quality transit options.

Additionally, the IBX project will leverage existing infrastructure by maximizing the use of an existing freight rail corridor for passenger service while accommodating expanded freight service. Altogether, these improvements will contribute to enhanced safety, improved quality of life, expanded economic growth and goods movement, and increased job opportunities for local residents and people traveling to the 19 proposed stations along the line.

RAISE grant funding will allow MTA to complete the first phase of preliminary engineering necessary for the Interborough Express NEPA analysis, bringing the project one step closer to reality. A project of

this magnitude cannot be advanced without federal funding and given the substantial benefits that the Interborough Express Project will offer, I urge you to give it all due consideration.

Thank you for your consideration of this important project and please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dan Goldman', with a stylized, cursive script.

Dan Goldman
Representative, 10th Congressional District