

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

K. Jane Williams  
Acting Administrator  
Federal Transit Administration  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

July 2, 2019

Dear Administrator Williams:

We are writing in strong support of the New York City Department of Transportation's request from the Bus and Bus Facilities Program towards a critical bus enhancement project in Brooklyn.

This project will construct a series of concrete bus bulbs and bus pads at existing bus stops along 86th Street (under the elevated D-train subway line) and along Bay Parkway in Bensonhurst and Bath Beach, Brooklyn. In total, 15 bus bulbs and 15 bus pads will be installed at priority bus stops to create a seamless path from the existing curb line to the bus stops, which will be raised behind steel-faced curbs. The scope of work also includes a trench restoration with full street reconstruction on 20th Ave from 86th Street to Benson Ave and safety improvements at the intersection of Benson Ave and 20th Ave.

South Brooklyn is a particularly underserved area when it comes to public transportation. Not only are subway stations sparse when compared with other neighborhoods of New York City, but also the service on these lines are some of the worst in the MTA system. As a result, bus service is often the only reliable way for Brooklynites to get about their daily lives.

This project will help to significantly improve safety and accessibility at bus stops currently located under an elevated rail line. At most of these locations, subway columns prevent buses from accessing the curb and bus riders are forced to wait for, board, and alight the bus in the middle of the street. This leaves bus riders vulnerable to collisions with vehicles and also results in bus stops which are inaccessible for the elderly and disabled, who may require the aid of the bus ramp/lift. In light of recent and tragic accidents involving pedestrians and vehicles in Brooklyn, and Bensonhurst specifically, these improvements are critical to ensuring Brooklynites are able to get where they need to go, safely.

Accessibility is critical at the locations of the project because the subway stations along this corridor are not equipped with elevators and are therefore inaccessible to people with disabilities. In these areas, bus service is the only mode of public transportation available. Boarding the bus from the roadbed as opposed to the sidewalk entails a higher vertical step that is challenging and time-consuming for people with limited mobility. Furthermore, bus operators must deploy the wheelchair ramp for customers who would not require it if they were able to step from a raised sidewalk. These conditions increase bus idling time at stops and decrease on-time rates.

Through the BSUE (Bus Stops Under the El) initiative, DOT makes improvements at these locations by constructing bus boarding islands or curb extensions at existing bus stop locations under elevated trains. These improvements provide bus riders, especially those with disabilities, a safe space to wait for the bus and the ability to board without crossing through traffic. The improvements also enhance bus operations by increasing visibility, expediting pick up and drop off, and improving bus drivers' ability to navigate in traffic despite the raised subway columns.

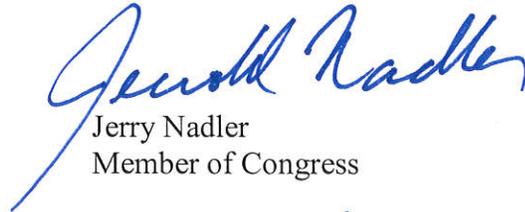
The improvements made possible by the Bus and Bus Facilities grant are badly needed by the thousands of South Brooklynites who rely on public transit. Approval of the grant will help make South Brooklynites safer, and will doubtlessly save lives. Furthermore, increased accessibility will allow more people to pursue economic opportunity and independence.

We appreciate your consideration of this application and respectfully request that you award the funds requested.

Sincerely,



Max Rose  
Member of Congress



Jerry Nadler  
Member of Congress



Carolyn Maloney  
Member of Congress



Yvette D. Clarke  
Member of Congress



Nydia Velazquez  
Member of Congress



Hakeem Jeffries  
Member of Congress