



Corridor Vision Safety, Equity and Resiliency

Eric Adams, Mayor | Ydanis Rodriguez, Commissioner

Community Partners Round 1 Update

May 2023



Background

NYC DOT is actively engaging communities along the BQE corridor in Brooklyn in a BQE Corridor Vision process. The BQE North and South engagement process will develop a vision for potential future improvements to communities surrounding the State-owned sections of the BQE corridor north of Sands Street to the Kosciuszko Bridge and south of Atlantic Avenue to the Verrazzano-Narrows Bridge, including potential changes to adjacent streets. BQE North and South will evaluate potential short-term projects to address community concerns, as well as larger-scale, longer-term projects to reconnect communities that have been divided by the structure. Concurrently, the BQE Central engagement process will develop and implement a permanent solution for the City-owned structure from the Atlantic Avenue interchange to the Sands Street interchange. New Federal funds, available through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and Inflation Reduction Act, provide an exciting opportunity to address long-standing concerns regarding the BQE for the 21st Century.

Community Partners Background

As part of the BQE Corridor Vision, NYC DOT has implemented a Community Partner program. Community Partners are community-based organizations that are leading additional grassroots engagement to gather community input, with emphasis on organizations serving underrepresented communities and those serving constituents whose primary language is not English.

There are a total of 18 Community Partners and they have held dozens of self-led engagements of different formats over their first round of engagement, with support from NYC DOT and its consultant team. Community Partners were announced in mid-December 2022 and began their first round of engagement in January 2023, which concluded in late March 2023.

High-level summaries of self-reported engagement processes and outcomes are included below. Responses have been condensed and edited for clarity, with **particular emphasis on highlighting feedback that differed from or was not as prominently heard in the NYC DOT-led engagement.** More in-depth feedback from the Community Partners has also been shared directly with the design team, to inform further refinement of the BQE Vision.

Main Recurring Themes Across Multiple Community Partners

- It is important that bigger picture ideas be explored all along the BQE and be planned comprehensively – for example, capping and reducing the physical presence of the BQE, reducing or removing on and off-ramps, and lane reductions
- A suggestion for clearer, better maintained, multilingual street signage, particularly in BQE South communities
- There is a desire for cleaner, better maintained, more inviting spaces under/ around the BQE, with clear maintenance and oversight planning for existing and newly created spaces, and integration of opportunities for community-driven public art
- Requests for improved lighting underneath and around the BQE, corridor-wide
- There is a desire for increased safety on, under, and around the BQE, both for pedestrians and vehicles
- Continue to look comprehensively at freight planning and ways to better separate freight/truck traffic from other uses

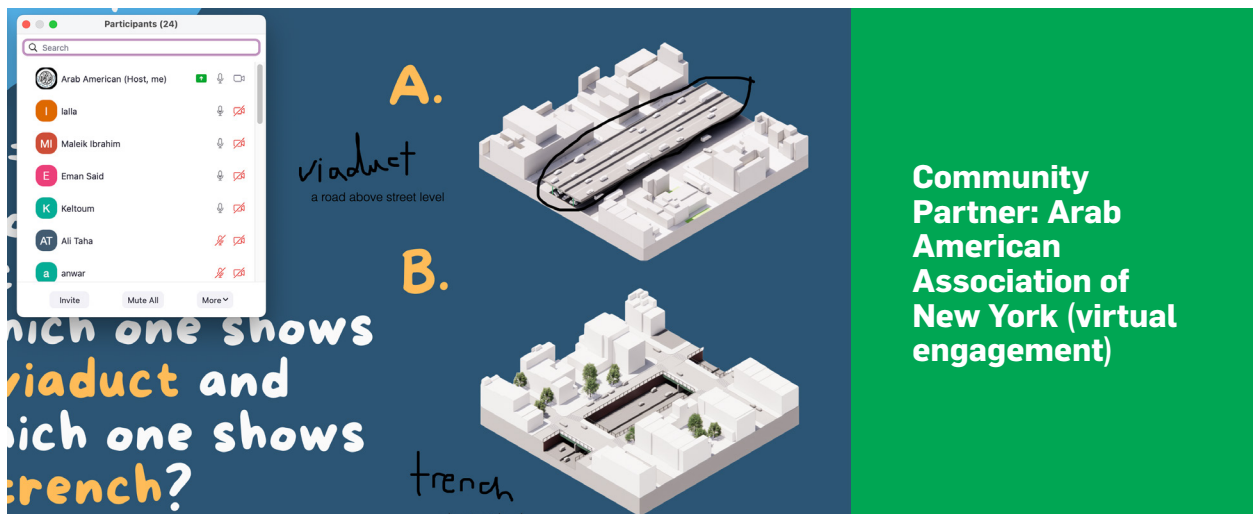
Arab American Association of New York (AAANY)



AAANY demonstrates its commitment to Brooklyn's Arab immigrant, refugee, and Muslim communities through their comprehensive service and advocacy programs. They provide a range of critical support services to over 7,000 participants annually, including women's empowerment and adult literacy programs, immigration legal assistance, mental health and domestic violence support services, civic engagement and community organizing, and youth programming.

- Held engagements in Arabic and English, including five different virtual workshops and flyering and tabling

- AAANY reported that participants prioritized:
 - Pedestrian and cyclist safety and infrastructure, including protected bike lanes and bikeshare stations
 - Quality of life improvements, including noise and litter reduction, lighting, new green space, and murals to reduce graffiti
 - Desire for new public amenities, including more benches, free WiFi, and restrooms
 - Design that reduces reliance on cars and need for parking
 - A desire for increased connections between Bay Ridge and Dyker Heights
 - Support for new open space that is accessible to all, potentially mixed with light retail, but opposition to utilizing public spaces for big-box stores or extensive retail



Bay Ridge Community Development Center (BRCDC)



The mission of BRCDC is to promote and provide the highest quality activities and services that will contribute to the physical, emotional and social well-being of the community. BRCDC's vision is to enhance the quality of life and to fill the unmet needs through their services, programs and activities for their community regardless of ethnicity, gender or economic status.

- Held engagements in English, including a workshop largely attended by youth, as well as social media engagement efforts
- BRCDC reported that participants prioritized:
 - Taking a look at pedestrian crossings for safety improvement
 - Freight-only lanes, or other ways to separate trucks and other cars
 - Improving the aesthetics of the BQE, such as by adding more greenery
 - Working to eliminate the carbon emissions that the highway generates to prevent the impacts of climate change; utilizing greenery that can reduce pollution
 - Making sure young people continue to be part of the process, since they will be the primary BQE users of the future
 - Providing more spaces for vendors, both to provide opportunities for family recreation and small business development



**Community
Partner: Bay
Ridge Community
Development
Center**

Brooklyn Chinese-American Association (BCA)



Founded in 1988, BCA is a community-based not-for-profit human services agency that has over 34 years of successful experience and expertise in providing Asian immigrants with multi-dialectical and culturally sensitive access services, case management and family services. BCA aims to address the needs and concerns of Asian-Americans, as well as act as liaison between the Asian-American community, the government and various private and service organizations in order to promote a congenial relationship among them.

- Held engagements in Cantonese, Mandarin, and English, including five different in-person engagements (including one at their senior center), and multilingual digital engagement, including utilizing WeChat and surveying tools
- BCA reported that participants prioritized:
 - Reducing congestion and improving roadway maintenance
 - Taking a look at intersections for safety improvements, including through additional security cameras, lighting, traffic lights and clearer roadway instructions
 - Quality of life improvements, including reducing noise and air pollution, addressing flooding/ponding under the BQE, and engaging local businesses in adopt-a-block type programs
 - Creating new green space, dog parks, and playgrounds along the waterfront and under the BQE where there is currently parking



**Community
Partner: Brooklyn
Chinese-American
Association**

Chinese American Planning Council (CPC)



CPC is an over 57-year-old Social Services organization serving over 200,000 New Yorkers across all 51 Council districts. Their mission is to promote the social and economic empowerment of Chinese American, immigrant, and low-income communities through 50 plus programs including Childcare Services, Youth Services, Language Access, Immigration Services, Benefits Supports, Services for communities with different needs, and Older Adult Services.

- Held engagements in Mandarin, with written surveys and materials in traditional Chinese, including a workshop and a tabling event
- CPC reported that participants prioritized:
 - Pedestrian and street safety, including walking conditions, security cameras, lighting, traffic lights, and improved (multi-lingual) signage
 - Improving congestion, street design, and traffic management, particularly looking at potential improvements at crossings underneath the BQE along 3rd Avenue in Sunset Park, which participants use regularly to access Costco and Industry City businesses
 - Interest in new open and green spaces, both for public use and to address pollution
 - Addressing the BQE's role in dividing communities and cutting off access to services and amenities



**Community
Partner: Chinese
American
Planning Council**

El Puente is a community human rights institution that promotes leadership for peace and justice through the engagement of members (youth and adult) in the arts, education, scientific research, wellness and environmental action. Founded in 1982, El Puente currently integrates the diverse activities and community campaigns of El Puente Arts, the El Puente Green Light District (a holistic community sustainability initiative) and the Global Justice Training Institute within its six Youth Leadership Centers, its public high school the El Puente Academy for Peace and Justice, and El Puente-MS 50 Community School in North Brooklyn, and its Latino Climate Action Network in Puerto Rico. El Puente remains at the forefront of community-led movements for self-determination and as such, initiates/impacts social policy locally and nationally.

- Held multiple engagements in English and Spanish, including two walking tours and community conversations, and additional survey-style engagement
- El Puente reported that participants prioritized:
 - More green and open/public spaces (potentially through decking over the BQE), with safety within and connectivity between those spaces being a priority; connecting Continental Army Plaza and LaGuardia Playground and more cross-walks
 - Installing more street/neighborhood lighting, colorful street art, and neighborhood beautification
 - Address air and noise pollution both during construction and thereafter
 - Increasing investments in the community that can benefit families of all incomes, and introduce programs like mutual aid, community fridges, and open air markets/farmers market under/around the BQE
 - Centering sustainability in planning and construction, including ecological support for native species and plants, green infrastructure like rain gardens for stormwater management (including along the sides of the highway), renewable energy infrastructure, and noise and pollution mitigation
 - Decreasing luxury buildings and developments, and protecting the community from rising rents

Evergreen Exchange



Evergreen is a membership organization that champions manufacturing, creative production, and industrial service businesses in North Brooklyn and beyond. They connect businesses with resources and opportunities to help create and maintain high quality jobs at all skill levels.



Community Partner: Evergreen

- Held engagements in English focused on local business engagement, including two workshops, a specialized survey, interviews, and mailings
- Evergreen also conducted a North Brooklyn business-focused survey with 29 respondents, finding:
 - 38% of businesses surveyed said their deliveries will increase in the future; 70% own their trucks; and 60% said the BQE is their primary route;
 - Outgoing deliveries vehicle size: 27% are 48 foot trucks and 41% are box trucks
 - Incoming deliveries vehicle size: 82% common carrier, 69% box/vans, 65% are 48 foot trucks, and 44% receive 53 foot trucks
- Evergreen reported that participants prioritized:
 - Alternatives for freight deliveries; more rail and marine opportunities for transporting goods to and from North Brooklyn, especially large freight
 - Parking for employees, including potentially under the BQE
 - Reducing congestion (for both environmental and economic benefits); improving public transportation in order to reduce reliance on driving; eliminating parking minimums for new developments

- Need for shoulder on BQE to address dangerous conditions for NYPD and towing; concern about the lane reduction in BQE Central's impact on congestion
- Look at safety and accessibility for vehicles and pedestrians, including potentially around on/off-ramps, which may need to be widened, and Morgan/Meeker, McGuinness/Meeker, Wythe/Kent
- Addressing flooding under the BQE and need for more green infrastructure

Fifth Avenue Committee (FAC)



FAC is a nationally recognized comprehensive community development corporation based in South Brooklyn. Their mission is to advance economic, social, and racial justice in New York City through integrated, community-centered affordable housing, grassroots organizing, policy advocacy, and transformative education, training, and services that build the power to shape their community's future. To achieve their mission, they develop and manage affordable housing and community facilities, create economic opportunities, and ensure access to economic stability, organize tenants and residents around housing justice and accountable development issues and campaigns, and provide student centered adult education.

- Held engagements in Spanish, Mandarin, and English, including six focus groups with FAC staff and program participants, Gowanus and Sunset Park residents, as well as a bus tour
- FAC reported that participants prioritized:
 - Explore pedestrian safety conditions and health/air quality inequities created by the elevated viaduct sections of BQE South
 - Assessing the school zones along the 3rd Avenue corridor
 - Explore bus lanes, new routes, and connections along 3rd Avenue and Hamilton Avenues; more reliable bus service, particularly on the B37
 - A 3rd Avenue corridor-wide comprehensive study focusing on traffic, air quality, urban heat island effects, and flooding
 - A comprehensive planning process to plant trees to increase shade for pedestrians and improve air quality

Mixteca's mission is to empower the Mexican and Latin-American immigrants of the New York area by providing them access to services that enhance their quality of life and will allow them to reach sustainable social and economic development. They offer a variety of programs and services that respond to the specific needs of immigrant families and aim to build a supportive environment for the growing Mexican and Latin-American immigrant community.



Community Partner: Mixteca

- Held engagements in Spanish, and English, including multiple in-person engagement events and tabling events in Sunset Park on-street, in parks, at a community fridge, Women's History Month celebration, a resource fair, two art-focused workshops, and in-person and virtual workshops
- Mixteca reported that participants prioritized:
 - More open space, with emphasis on space designed or programmed for children/youth and family use, while preventing potential gentrification impacts
 - Desire to see more utilization of off-hour deliveries by trucks (particularly early morning)
 - Increased affordability, accessibility, and reliability of public transportation (particularly within Brooklyn); participants noted that poor transit access and reliability impacts their ability to spend time with their families
 - Addressing congestion and its effect on street safety and pollution
 - Land use, zoning, and development that prioritizes existing tenants/ community members and local businesses
 - Being included in new infrastructure planning, including ensuring the local community and its culture is reflected in art and programming

North Brooklyn Parks Alliance



The North Brooklyn Parks Alliance was formed in 2003 as NYC's only district-wide parks conservancy, working with the NYC Department of Parks & Recreation, NYC DOT, NYS DOT, elected officials, and the community to maintain, activate, enhance, and expand local parks, while challenging common perceptions of what defines open space. Their mission is to create an equitable, accessible, and vibrant parks and open space system in North Brooklyn.



Community Partner: North Brooklyn Parks Alliance; credit: Konstancja Maleszynska

- Held engagements in English, including one virtual workshop, one lunch and learn workshop, and an open house-style workshop
- North Brooklyn Parks Alliance reported that participants prioritized:
 - Maintenance planning, with clear responsibilities for spaces in and around the BQE; sanitation, including the need for more regular trash collection, sweeping, and litter removal
 - The involvement of both NYC and NYS DOT in BQE planning, and open lines of communication and collaboration between the agencies
 - Roadway maintenance, including pothole repairs and clearer/refreshed markings
 - BQE noise attenuation, as noise impacts quality of life and local businesses
 - Potential street safety measures, including through reducing the speed limit on the BQE, increased utilization of physical barriers (such as for protected bike lanes and plaza expansion), traffic calming measures, shorter pedestrian crossings, and longer crossing intervals/signal timing adjustments

- An efficient and connected bike network
- Incentivizing alternatives to truck movement of freight
- Eliminating the BQE entirely, and/or looking at ways to reunite neighborhoods, such as through a pedestrian passage under the BQE at Monitor Street

Red Hook Initiative (RHI)



RHI is a community-based nonprofit in Red Hook. They believe that social change to overcome systemic inequities begins with empowered youth. In partnership with community adults, they nurture young people to be inspired, resilient, and healthy, and to envision themselves as co-creators of their lives, community and society. Since 2002, RHI has worked alongside residents of Red Hook to carry out resident-led solutions to local problems and to confront the impacts of racial inequity and decades of disinvestment on their historically under-resourced community. Their approach serves 6,500 BIPOC residents each year through an interconnected model of youth development, advocacy, and organizing on local issues, and community hiring.



**Community Partner:
Red Hook Initiative (RHI)**

- Held engagements in Cantonese, Mandarin, Spanish, and English, including nine sets of office hours, three pop-ups, three school presentations, a walk-through, a “Red Hook Elder” storytelling, three NYCHA Red Hook Houses outreach days, and a survey
- RHI reported that participants prioritized:
 - Addressing pollution, air quality, and related health impacts
 - Parks and open space, particularly for families and children

- Street safety, with emphasis on pedestrian improvements and safer, shorter crossings and longer signal timing for pedestrians; RHI conducted a survey of 354 people in and around Red Hook; 70% of RHI's survey respondents identified pedestrian safety as a top concern, 54% identified congestion, and 51% identified traffic safety
- Addressing the unwelcoming feeling and anxiety that areas in and under the BQE inspire, such as through a more welcoming design, improved lighting, and addressing ongoing sanitation and cleanliness issues
- Concerns about last mile delivery facilities and their rapid increase and concentration in the Red Hook community
- Addressing the disconnection from community facilities, transportation, and other resources that the BQE creates, as well as its reinforcement of local public housing disinvestment
- Centering the Red Hook community in planning, particularly to address and prevent the impacts of gentrification on small/local businesses and the potential for new park space to increase gentrification
- Concern about the potential of years-long construction from BQE projects, particularly the impact on public housing residents and seniors

Southwest Brooklyn Industrial Development Corporation (SBIDC)



SBIDC provides advocacy and services to help businesses in the Sunset Park, Red Hook and Gowanus neighborhoods grow and create employment opportunities for local residents. Since the organization's inception in 1978, SBIDC has been a driving force in the improvement of the Southwest Brooklyn economy by delivering a wide range of free business services to local firms and acting as an advocate for local small businesses, and the overall preservation of the industrial economy. They provide business education courses, technical assistance to entrepreneurs and small business owners, and workforce training and placement services for job seekers throughout Brooklyn.

- Held engagements in English, including an in-person/virtual hybrid workshop, ten one-on-one feedback sessions with industrial businesses, and digital outreach

- SBIDC reported that participants prioritized:
 - Addressing congestion, both on the BQE and on surrounding streets (due to traffic avoiding the BQE or waiting to access on-ramps/exiting off-ramps)
 - Separating freight uses wherever possible, such as designating a separate truck lane, or clearly demarcating truck routes with signage that directs pedestrians/bicyclists to separate routes
 - Specific areas for NYCDOT to look at: the 58th Street and 3rd Avenue intersection, the Hamilton Ave off-ramp, and the Hicks Street and Atlantic Avenue intersection
 - Ensuring any BQE closures occur between 10pm-5am and avoid October through December to the extent possible
 - Increased lighting under the BQE
 - Possible additional metered and designated commercial vehicle parking under the BQE

St. Nicks Alliance



St. Nicks Alliance seeks to transform the lives of low- and moderate-income people through employment, education, housing, and health care. They do this by delivering impactful services with measurable outcomes to children, adults, and the elderly. As a civic anchor they carry out this mission within the context of building a sustainable community for all people through the arts, environmental advocacy, and urban planning.

- Held engagements in English and Spanish, including an in-person town hall, a focus group with community leaders, and digital and social media engagement
- St. Nicks Alliance reported that participants prioritized:
 - Street safety, such as additional lighting, street redesigns, a possible Meeker Avenue road diet, improving or closing slip lanes, more crossings and longer crossing intervals, crossing guards and more enforcement to prevent dangerous driving, double parking, and vehicles on sidewalks
 - Reducing and better separating truck freight traffic

- Addressing local maintenance needs, including litter/cleanliness, flooding and clogged catch basins, damaged sidewalks and roads, and illegal dumping
- Services and resources (rather than displacement) for unhoused New Yorkers living under/around the BQE
- Improved signage, including wayfinding, street and bike signage, and BQE history signage
- Knitting together disconnected open spaces, and amenities for open spaces that brings in local community organizations, and creates resources like restrooms, mobile libraries, food carts, health care resources, flexible retail, and active programming



Community Partner: St. Nicks Alliance

Transportation Alternatives (TA)



TA reclaims New York City from cars, transforming streets into safe, sustainable, and equitable places to walk, bike, take transit, gather, and thrive. For nearly 50 years, TA has led the movement for safe, equitable streets in New York City. They believe that streets belong to the people of New York City, and they work with New Yorkers in every borough to build a future that rises to the needs of their communities.

- Held engagements in English and Spanish, including three interactive walking tours (one in BQE North, one in Central, and one in South) which included additional opportunities to share feedback; TA also invited other Community Partners to join these activities

- TA reported that participants prioritized:
 - A comprehensive reimagining of the BQE and spaces underneath, emphasizing reducing vehicular use (and associated safety concerns), pedestrian and cyclist safety, and new opportunities for green/public space, and housing
 - Big-picture ideas, like bringing the BQE underground, or removing it entirely
 - Encouraging mode shifts for freight vehicles (such as maritime and rail)
 - Integrating public amenities like bike parking, restrooms, and street trees
 - Addressing the negative pollution and health outcomes caused by the BQE as well as the concentration of last-mile delivery facilities in BQE South



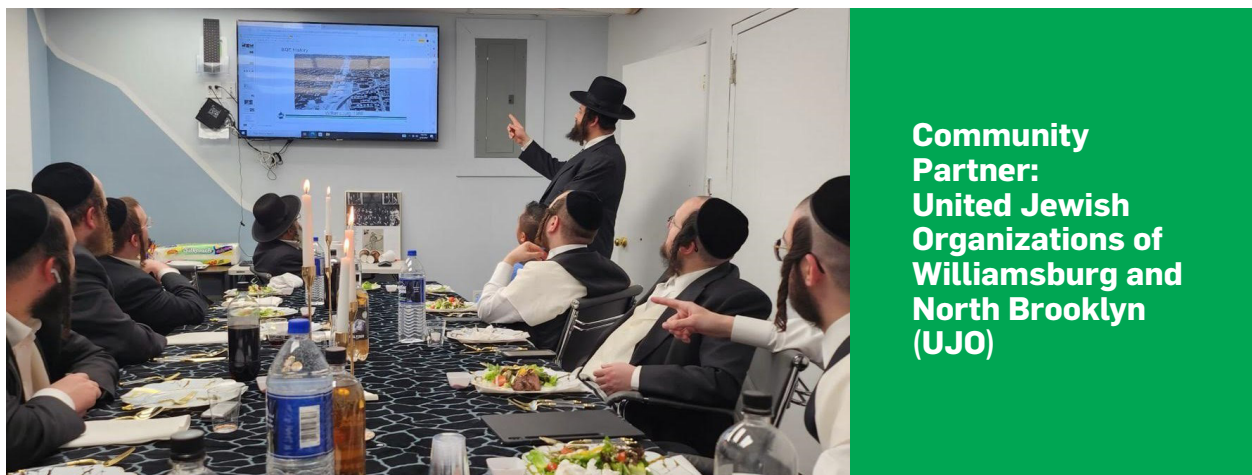
**Community
Partner:
Transportation
Alternatives**

United Jewish Organizations of Williamsburg and North Brooklyn (UJO)



UJO was established in 1966 to meet the social service and advocacy needs of the community. Since then, the UJO is the main social service provider in the area offering services to the poor and needy including enrollment in SNAP, Medicaid and health insurance, senior services, housing, food distributions and many other supports. The UJO also advocates for the community with the government on community planning needs and many other local issues affecting area residents.

- Held engagements in Yiddish and English, including in-person small group meetings and discussions with South Williamsburg and Bed-Stuy community members
- UJO reported that participants prioritized:
 - The BQE as a connector between South Williamsburg and Borough Park
 - Improving and preserving traffic flow both on the BQE and surrounding streets, which participants believe could be helped with an additional traffic lane or HOV lane on the BQE; expressed concern that BQE Central lane reductions have also impacted congestion in and around South Williamsburg
 - New greenery/green spaces and other quality of life improvements that would not reduce the roadway, particularly those that could be created from capping the structure
 - Addressing cleanliness around the BQE and service roads, including dust and illegal dumping
 - Opportunities to develop new housing and community facilities around or on decked portions of the BQE
 - Managing freight, both for safety and congestion, including pushing to off-hours deliveries
 - Improving traffic flow through possible improvements at the Wythe Avenue exit, potential one-way conversions of Wallabout Street and Flushing Avenue, and other possible improvements to the Lee/Wallabout/Lorimer intersection



Founded in 1966, UPROSE is Brooklyn's oldest Latino community-based organization. An intergenerational, multi-racial, nationally recognized community organization, UPROSE promotes sustainability and resiliency in Brooklyn's Sunset Park neighborhood through community organizing, education, indigenous and youth leadership development, and cultural/artistic expression. Central to their work is advocacy to ensure meaningful community engagement, participatory community planning practices, and sustainable development with justice and governmental accountability.

- Held engagements in English and Spanish, with outreach also conducted in Arabic and Mandarin, which included a learning circle event in Sunset Park
- UPROSE reported that participants prioritized:
 - NYCDOT examining ways to improve how pedestrians and cyclists cross and navigate 3rd Avenue, lighting, functioning traffic signals, repainted crosswalks, dangerous traffic, too many e-commerce delivery trucks, and lack of large/overweight truck enforcement
 - Reducing the number of lanes on the BQE
 - Addressing pollution, exhaust fumes, air quality, noise, and insufficient sanitation
 - Health concerns, specifically for asthma in children and respiratory conditions, especially when compounded by other environmental burdens
 - Concerns about displacement, gentrification, and inequality when it comes to businesses on 3rd Avenue and wanting to ensure spaces are prioritized for existing residents and local businesses
 - Efforts to address climate change through better public transit, shifting away from trucks to maritime freight
 - Free and accessible parking under the BQE, access to the waterfront and Bush Terminal Piers Park and other green and recreational space, reconnecting communities divided by the structure through programming

Women's Empowerment Coalition of NYC



WECNYC
WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT
COALITION OF NYC
EDUCATE . EMPOWER . ELEVATE

The Women's Empowerment Coalition of NYC (WECNYC) builds power among women from diverse communities through dialogue, education, leadership development and social services.

- Held engagements in English, Arabic, Chinese, Spanish and Russian, including two in-person workshops and one virtual workshop.
- WECNYC reported that participants prioritized:
 - Safety, through increased lighting, additional security presence, and through more street activation, including bringing more businesses to 3rd Avenue
 - Cleanliness, including regular/ongoing sanitation, and potentially changing the color of the BQE structure
 - More green or open space with cafés or areas for resting, restrooms, and community facilities like libraries
 - Reducing the number of lanes on the BQE due to concerns about pollution
 - More active recreation amenities, including gyms, sporting fields, playgrounds, and dog parks
 - Removing the BQE on 3rd Avenue and extending the Battery Tunnel to the Belt Parkway
 - Freight management, including restricting trucks to specific hours, reducing factories on 3rd Avenue, and enforcement against trucks double parking



Community Partner:
Women's Empowerment Coalition of NYC

Yemeni American Merchants Association (YAMA)



YAMA was founded in 2017 as the very first and only Arabic-speaking merchants association in New York City. Over the years they have evolved to serve both Arabic-speaking small business owners and their families by offering a range of social services, educational programs, and advocacy campaigns. Their mission is to educate and elevate Yemeni American merchants and their families through education, civil rights advocacy, business, and social service support.

- Held engagements in English and Arabic including a virtual workshop, as well as outreach to local businesses on 3rd Avenue.
- YAMA reported that participants prioritized:
 - Sanitation, lighting, safety issues, and addressing the overall unwelcoming feeling of areas around/under the BQE
 - Parking under the BQE being underutilized, with potential for different community uses that could draw more people to the area and help stimulate local economic activity
 - Both traffic and congestion, as well as pedestrian and cyclist safety and access
 - Ensuring changes actually happen, as some felt change had been promised but undelivered in the past

*Fort Greene Park Conservancy



The Fort Greene Park Conservancy is also partnering with the Friends Of Commodore Barry Park on their BQE Community Partner efforts. The Fort Greene Park Conservancy provides programming, maintenance, and advocacy to preserve and nourish Fort Greene Park as a community resource and public space for all New Yorkers for generations to come. Fort Greene Park is a public space stewarded by the community to celebrate and sustain the diverse culture of Fort Greene, its rich history, and the park's natural assets.

*The Fort Greene Park Conservancy joined the Community Partners initiative later than other partners, and will have feedback to share in the next round of engagement

Additional information on Community Partners can be viewed at www.bqevision.com/community-partner.

What's Next

For BQE North and South, Round 2 of Community Partner engagement is expected to begin in May 2023 and last through Summer 2023. Similarly to the above, feedback from this effort will be combined with the feedback received from NYC DOT's engagement to help inform continued improvements and advancement of BQE Vision concepts. Round 3 of NYC DOT BQE North and South workshops are expected to be held in Fall/Winter 2023, with Community Partners proceeding with Round 3 of engagement thereafter.

On May 2, 2023, NYC DOT hosted an educational webinar on the environmental review process. BQE Central completed Round 3 of engagement in March 2023. Later this Spring, there will be an Atlantic Avenue-focused virtual workshop to hone in on concepts for that area which were not yet fully defined at the time of the BQE Central Round 3 workshops. NYC DOT will be moving the commencement of the anticipated environmental review process for BQE Central to as early as Fall 2023. This will be an approximately two-year process, with multiple opportunities for additional public engagement. Under this revised schedule, it is expected that design will be finalized and construction will commence in 2027. More information on that process will be shared later this year.

Upcoming public meetings:

- BQE Central Atlantic Avenue-focused Virtual Workshop (Date TBA)
- Fall/Winter 2023: BQE North and South Round 3 Workshops (Dates TBA)

The project website www.bqevision.com outlines upcoming meetings, opportunities for engagement, methods to share feedback, and contains project materials.

Note: This document reflects the feedback from the Community Partners in summary format and is not a full transcription of feedback received. Responses have been condensed and edited for clarity, with particular emphasis on highlighting feedback that differed from or was not as prominently heard in the NYC DOT-led engagement.