



THE CITY OF NEW YORK
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10007

EXECUTIVE ORDER No. 43

April 15, 2019

EXPERT PANEL ON THE BROOKLYN-QUEENS EXPRESSWAY RECONSTRUCTION
FROM ATLANTIC AVENUE TO SANDS STREET

WHEREAS, the section of the Brooklyn-Queens Expressway (BQE) from the vicinity of Atlantic Avenue to the vicinity of Sands Street is among the most complex highway structures in the country, and includes the triple-cantilever structure of which the Brooklyn Heights promenade is the top-most tier;

WHEREAS, the roadway is part of Interstate-278, a critical interstate and inter-borough connector – where daily traffic now exceeds 150,000 vehicles including more than 15,000 trucks; and

WHEREAS, an evaluation by outside consultants hired by the New York City Department of Transportation (DOT) concluded in 2016 that if the road is not reconstructed by 2026, weight restrictions may need to be added to the structure – including diverting all truck traffic to local roads;

NOW THEREFORE, by the power vested in me as Mayor of the City of New York, it is hereby ordered:

Section 1. Establishment of the Expert Panel to Evaluate Reconstruction of the Brooklyn-Queens Expressway. There is hereby established a BQE Expert Panel (the “Panel”).

- (a) The Panel shall consist of a Chairperson, Carlo Scissura, members Rohit Aggarwala, Vincent Alvarez, Kate Ascher, Steven Cohen, Elizabeth Goldstein, Henry Gutman, Kyle Kimball, Mitchell Moss, Kaan Ozbay, Hani Nassif, Benjamin Prosky, Denise Richardson, Ross Sandler, Jay Simson, Tom Wright, Kathryn Wylde, and such other members as the Mayor may appoint.

§ 2. Duties of the Panel. The Panel shall:

- (a) Evaluate DOT’s BQE project assumptions and concepts, including but not limited to policy and governance structures, construction methods, goals of the project, and the proposed project footprint.

- (b) Review public proposals, papers, or concepts for the BQE project, including those submitted by the Brooklyn Heights Association, the Regional Plan Association, the Comptroller, and the Bjark Ingels Group.
- (c) Provide the Mayor, the New York City Commissioner of Transportation, and the public with non-binding recommendations on the feasibility of various community presented proposals, project assumptions, construction methodologies and proposed project governance needs. The Panel shall also identify which, if any, of its recommendations may require actions outside of the control of the City or would be accomplished through local administrative or local legislative action.
- (d) Issue preliminary findings and a final report.
- (e) Gather information and obtain feedback from the public and local elected officials.

§ 3. Powers of the Panel.

- (a) In carrying out its mandate, the Panel may consult with third parties, including local elected officials and civic organizations, and others as it deems appropriate, and shall obtain all information and data necessary to fulfill the duties identified in section two of this Order.
- (b) The Chairperson is authorized to convene meetings and establish such committees of the Panel as may be deemed necessary for the performance of its duties.

§ 4. Agency Assistance and Cooperation. All City agencies, including the Department of Transportation, Department of Environmental Protection, and the Department of Parks and Recreation, shall cooperate in providing to the Panel such personnel, facilities, information and other assistance as are necessary and required by the Panel to carry out its duties.

§ 5. Effective Date. This order shall take effect immediately and be retroactive to April 3, 2019.



Bill de Blasio
Mayor