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**Ari Brown
Assemblyman 20th District
Nassau County**

Commissioner Ydanis Rodriguez
New York City Department of Transportation
55 Water Street, 9th Floor
New York, NY 10041

August 10, 2022

Dear Commissioner Rodriguez:

I wear many hats as New York State Assemblyman, Deputy Mayor, and possibly more germane to this letter, an individual who's been in the construction industry for many decades. I am writing with concerns about heavy and intrusive construction on the "venerable" and frustrating Rockaway Turnpike, a road that runs through a portion of my district, connecting Nassau County to South East Queens. As you are aware, this is the only artery for tens of thousands of people who live on the western portion of the south shore of Long Island to evacuate during an emergency. This important road leads Nassau and Queens County residents to the Belt Parkway, JFK Airport and the Van Wyck Expressway.

It is very unfortunate that a community such as mine is consistently at risk - creating a perpetual health and safety emergency. Construction at the new Amazon warehouse and the Chick-fil-A locations of the turnpike have been an ongoing nightmare, with much of the roadwork occurring during the busiest times of day.

Having worked in the construction industry for nearly five decades, I have learned that communication to local residents is paramount to a smooth jobsite operation. Frankly, there has been absolutely no notification to our community of planned work, extent of work, time table of a project(s) or potential alternate routes. The traffic buildup can lead to delays of over an hour in some cases and emergency services cannot respond to calls efficiently.

While I can appreciate that the DOT has now opened up two lanes for traffic, there is still much to be done to ensure the health, safety and sanity of the people who reside in our communities. I formally and respectfully ask that we meet in person to develop a plan as to how to remediate these life-threatening concerns; such as having all roadwork commence in the late evening through the early hours of the morning.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation. I am available around the clock to meet and find a viable solution to this dangerous situation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ari Brown'.

Assemblyman Ari Brown
20th District