



OFFICE OF THE BROOKLYN BOROUGH PRESIDENT

Testimony Delivered by:

Deputy Brooklyn Borough President Diana Reyna

On behalf of:

Brooklyn Borough President Eric L. Adams

Tuesday, February 3, 2015

**Public Hearings on the Cross Harbor Freight Movement Project Tier I
Draft Environmental Impact Statement**

Good Evening.

My name is Diana Reyna and I'm the Deputy Brooklyn Borough President here to testify on behalf of Brooklyn Borough President Eric L. Adams. Together, we represent the 2.6 million Brooklyn residents who call this great borough home.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments at this public hearing on the Tier I Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the Cross Harbor Freight Project. I acknowledge the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey for hosting this important community forum as well as the community residents who have come to participate and engage in what could be the largest public work project in the region.

In Borough President Adams' inaugural address he stated that our waterfront and port facilities need to grow to where Brooklyn will become a leader in the region for maritime trade. We are firm in our support of the expansion of port facilities and waterfront.

Also, we are supportive of efficient movement of goods by rail freight and the manufacturing and industrial jobs that the port would create. We are committed to a strong industrial manufacturing sector as a strategic part of the City's economy and we understand the challenges that our Borough and region face when it comes to the state of our harbor facilities.

The Port Authority is faced with an enormous challenge to address the 21st Century distribution needs of freight that flows into our harbors and dock at our shores.

Several of the proposals being outlined in the Cross Harbor Freight program, particularly rail tunnel options, would strengthen the regional freight network, reduce truck traffic and vehicle miles travelled, improve air quality, and provide economic benefits for the entire region. It will also expand facilities for the more cost-effective delivery of goods to Brooklyn as well as – and perhaps more importantly – the exporting of Brooklyn made products to the rest of the country.

Additionally, improving cross-harbor freight movement will increase system resiliency, safety and security to protect our infrastructure in an era of increasing concerns over climate change and terrorism.

Still, as this project moves forward, it is important that all of the proposals being considered are thoroughly vetted and the communities that will be impacted are involved in all aspects of the planning stages.

We must evaluate all components of the plan as it moves through the Tier 1 review process and continues into Tier 2. Issues of transportation equity that communities face when a preferred alternative advances must be analyzed.

The Office of the Brooklyn Borough President plans to monitor this process closely as we will continue to collaborate on bringing our freight network into the modern age. We look forward to working closely with the Port Authority and the residents of Brooklyn to make sure we have a sound plan that will not only be beneficial to the environment, our local and regional economy and our quality of life, but also one that will last for generations to come.

Thank you.

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