



June 4, 2026

Comments re: DOT Proposed Amendment of Rules Relating to Citywide Truck Routes

As the New York City Council Member representing District 33 in Brooklyn, I write on behalf of the 400-500 State Street Block Association and parents of children at PS K456 (Elizabeth Jennings School for Bold Explorers) regarding the Department of Transportation's proposed amendment of rules relating to citywide truck routes. I write in support of their request to remove 3rd Avenue between Atlantic Avenue and Schermerhorn Street from the citywide truck route network, or at minimum to significantly restrict non-local through-truck traffic on that corridor. Rather, the Boerum Place, Jay Street, and Tillary Street corridor could serve as a viable alternative route to the Manhattan Bridge and the BQE for trucks not making local deliveries.

As conditions currently stand, the stretch of 3rd Avenue between Atlantic Avenue and Schermerhorn Street is unsafe and inappropriate as a through-truck corridor. The existing truck routing pattern follows an illogical zig-zag route in which trucks must turn left onto Atlantic Avenue, right on 3rd Avenue, and then left on Flatbush Avenue. Trucks turning right from 3rd Avenue onto State Street to reach southbound Flatbush Avenue regularly block crosswalks and encroach on sidewalk space, endangering pedestrians. Oversized 53-foot tractor-trailers are regularly observed in this area despite being prohibited on New York City streets. FDNY Engine 226 on State Street is regularly blocked by truck traffic, leading to dangerous delays in emergency response times. Buses on Flatbush Avenue are regularly trapped behind truck traffic as well, undermining DOT's investment in bus priority along Flatbush Ave.

The city's truck route has not been updated to reflect changing conditions along this corridor. This includes the construction of thousands of new residential units and two new public schools (PS K456 and the Khalil Gibran International Academy). As the school population of PS K456 continues to grow, the number of young children moving through the corridor will increase as well, and the current conditions place these children at risk as they walk to and from school buses. Active construction of One Third Avenue at the corner of 3rd Ave and State St has narrowed 3rd Avenue to two small lanes, forcing large trucks to drive alongside pedestrians and cyclists and further exacerbating hazardous street conditions.

Given these factors, I urge DOT to consider the removal of 3rd Avenue between Atlantic and Schermerhorn as a truck route, with the Boerum Place, Jay Street, and Tillary Street corridor serving as a more viable alternative. As DOT seeks to reassess the truck route network across the city, this change would improve traffic conditions and increase overall street safety on this residential and school corridor.

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Council Member, District 33