

TRI-STATE TRANSPORTATION CAMPAIGN



Testimony of Vincent Pellecchia, Tri-State Transportation Campaign New York City City Council Transportation Committee

December 4, 2013

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Introduction No. 1114-2013 to require the New York City Department of Transportation to publish a manual of policies and design guidelines for the improvement of roads every four years.

My name is Vincent Pellecchia, and I am the General Counsel for the Tri-State Transportation Campaign, a non-profit organization working toward a more balanced, transit-friendly and equitable transportation system in New York, New Jersey and Connecticut.

Tri-State supports this law and urges its adoption by the City Council.

The NYCDOT Street Design Manual has been lauded by planners and advocates across the country, and the manual and its successes must be codified through Introduction 1114.

By any metric, the measures implemented through the Street Design Manual have been wildly successful. Traffic deaths in 2012 were the fourth fewest since recordkeeping started in 1910 and nearly 30 percent fewer than in 2001 at the start of the Bloomberg Administration. In fact, all traffic injuries have dropped up to 50 percent on avenues with protected bike lanes. Additionally, areas with protected bike lanes and other improvements that focus on all roadway users have experienced significantly lower commercial vacancies and improved sales compared with local and City-wide averages.

This law will provide the administration of Mayor-elect de Blasio with a successful engineering and technical blueprint for how to improve safety and reduce fatalities for all users of the road.

Ensuring this process of continual improvement will build on the positive safety gains made over the past 12 years, while also institutionalizing a proven tool the incoming and future administrations can utilize as they continue the work to improve road safety for all users.

The Tri-State Transportation Campaign supports this effort to make City streets safer and we urge you to pass Introduction 1114.

Thank you.