

**NEW YORK LEAGUE OF CONSERVATION VOTERS - TRI-STATE
TRANSPORTATION CAMPAIGN - TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES -
PROSPECT HEIGHTS NEIGHBORHOOD DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL**

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**Council Member Cumbo, Advocates Call for Street Safety
Improvements on Atlantic Avenue**

Brooklyn's Most Dangerous Road Must be a Priority Corridor for Mayor de Blasio's Vision Zero initiative

NEW YORK – Council Member Laurie Cumbo was joined by the New York League of Conservation Voters, Prospect Heights Neighborhood Development Council, Transportation Alternatives and Tri-State Transportation Campaign today to call for immediate safety improvements on Atlantic Avenue, Brooklyn's busiest and most dangerous corridor.

Atlantic Avenue – one of the longest, widest and busiest arteries through Central Brooklyn – is an unsafe place for thousands of New Yorkers who use it each day. Between 2002 and 2013, over 1,400 pedestrians and cyclists were injured by drivers along Atlantic Avenue. In Council Member Laurie Cumbo's district (District 35) alone, 230 men, women and children were injured in the same time period. Five of those hit were killed. As the neighborhoods on either side of Atlantic Avenue boom with residential and commercial activity, vehicular, bicycle and pedestrian traffic along the street has increased dramatically.

Speaking just before a DOT-sponsored town hall on Mayor de Blasio's Vision Zero initiative, Council Member Cumbo and the advocates called on Mayor Bill de Blasio to prioritize safety improvements along Atlantic Avenue.

"Pedestrian safety is an issue that affects all of us, particularly the most vulnerable residents of our community – youth and seniors. Atlantic Avenue is one of the many streets in my district with heavy pedestrian and vehicular traffic due to the families who frequent local establishments, cultural and academic institutions. The implementation of Mayor de Blasio's Vision Zero Action Plan is a viable solution that will improve public safety and the quality of life, by drastically reducing the number of incidents and fatalities in neighborhoods across New York City. We cannot afford to delay action on this matter when so many lives remain at risk," said **Council Member Laurie A. Cumbo**, District 35.

"With Mayor de Blasio's support, we can transform Atlantic Avenue from the most dangerous road in Brooklyn to a model of complete streets," said **Marcia Bystryn**, **President of the New York League of Conservation Voters**. "Atlantic Avenue is a perfect

place to kick off Mayor de Blasio's Vision Zero initiative. Street safety is key to improving the quality of life in Central Brooklyn and in communities across all five boroughs."

"Atlantic Avenue is a critical corridor that connects Brooklyn's commercial and residential neighborhoods, but its current design puts deadly speed ahead of people," said **Paul Steely White, Executive Director of Transportation Alternatives**. "Mayor de Blasio should prioritize Atlantic Avenue as he moves ahead with his Vision Zero commitment to overhaul 50 dangerous streets and intersections each year. A redesign of Atlantic Avenue, with protected bike lanes, dedicated bus lanes and pedestrian safety improvements, would protect Brooklynites from reckless drivers, while also boosting local businesses and improving the quality of life along the entire corridor."

"Atlantic Avenue is one of the most deadly roads for pedestrians in New York City, and has long been identified as a corridor in need of better walking, cycling and transit infrastructure," said **Veronica Vanterpool, Executive Director for the Tri-State Transportation Campaign**. "Making Atlantic Avenue one of the 50 priority corridors is a must to achieve the goals of Vision Zero."

"Increased traffic and new uses introduced by the Barclays Center arena have made Atlantic Avenue more of a barrier between the neighborhoods of Prospect Heights and Fort Greene than ever before," said **Gib Veconi, Treasurer of the Prospect Heights Neighborhood Development Council**. "The continuing development of these communities requires that Atlantic Avenue become a complete street where cyclists and pedestrians feel safe."

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