



Hello,

Last month, [the City announced an expert panel](#) to take a comprehensive look at the BQE project. As Chair of this panel, I'm encouraging out of the box thinking on the BQE project and I'm working with the panelists to take a look at many of the proposals that have been put forward, while also grappling with the complexities of doing a project of this size in this part of Brooklyn. As the panel continues, I'll be sharing updates on our progress, which can be accessed at www.bqe-i278.com/en/expert-panel.

The panel has begun weekly meetings to tackle this project head-on. We've done some critical background work – becoming familiar with the various proposals on the table, site conditions, structural analysis, and traffic data. The panel has made a number of data requests from DOT, and will also be directly interacting with some of the project consultants. We've also toured the structure itself as well as the surrounding area. And we've been joined by representatives from a number of agencies that have shared information about their adjacent facilities that will have an impact on the project, including the MTA New York City Transit, Brooklyn Bridge Park Corporation, and the New York City Department of Environmental Protection, Parks Department, and City Planning Department.

Community organizations and the local elected officials have been a critical part of making this panel a reality, so it was important that the panel also met first-hand with a variety of project stakeholders, including civic associations from Vinegar Hill, to DUMBO, Brooklyn Heights, Cobble Hill, and beyond. We enjoyed our first roundtable with community leaders and elected officials, and will be planning another one soon. We'll also be inviting stakeholders to tour the project site in the coming weeks.

It's clear we have a lot of work ahead of us, but I have been encouraged to hear a variety of discussion from panelists and community members alike – from structural and engineering ideas, to critical questions about underlying traffic assumptions.

We welcome any feedback you'd like to share – please use the DOT webform [here](#) and note it is for the panel. You can also reach me to share any feedback at 212-213-2434. Thank you for staying so involved in this project, and I look forward to working together to make sure we create the best project possible.

Sincerely,

Carlo

Carlo A. Scissura, Esq.

Chair, BQE Expert Panel

President & CEO, New York Building Congress