

**SIMCHA EICHENSTEIN**  
Assembly Member, 48<sup>th</sup> District

**CHAIR**  
Subcommittee on Outreach and  
Oversight of Senior Citizen Programs

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**THE ASSEMBLY**  
**STATE OF NEW YORK**  
**ALBANY**

**DISTRICT OFFICE**  
1310 48th Street  
Brooklyn, New York 11219  
Phone: 718-853-9616

**ALBANY OFFICE**  
Room 548  
Legislative Office Building  
Albany, New York 12248  
Phone: 518-455-5721

**EMAIL**  
eichensteins@nyassembly.gov

January 15, 2020

Acting Commissioner Margaret Forgione  
NYC Department of Transportation  
55 Water Street  
New York, NY 10041

Dear Acting Commissioner Forgione:

I write to you on behalf of my constituents and the thousands of New Yorkers who are affected every day by constant traffic delays at the merging point of the Prospect Expressway and the Brooklyn Queens Expressway. At this juncture, drivers have the option to take the left-lane elevated ramp to the B.Q.E. or take Exit 1, which leads to the street-level below I-278 East through the bascule Hamilton Avenue Bridge. Most drivers make split second decisions between these options based on perceived traffic density. Drivers that choose the latter option often find the Hamilton Avenue Bridge raised for passing boats, further exacerbating the traffic congestion and adding time to already lengthy commutes.

To this end, I request that the Department of Transportation explore the installation of an alert system to notify drivers when the Hamilton Avenue Bridge is lifted or will soon be lifted. I propose that this signal be installed at Prospect Expressway, half a mile before the divide. This would allow drivers to make a safe and timely decision, reducing congestion and its environmental impact while also improving traffic safety.

I believe this solution would be simple yet effective. As a result, tens of thousands of drivers will experience an improved, safer, and quicker commute. I look forward to your consideration of this matter. Feel free to contact my office to discuss this proposal in greater detail.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S. Eichenstein".

Simcha Eichenstein  
Member of Assembly, 48<sup>th</sup> District

CC: Keith Bray, Brooklyn Borough Commissioner

