



The Honorable Andrea Stewart-Cousins
President Pro Tempore and Majority Leader of the New York State Senate
Legislative Office Building, Room 907
Albany, NY 12247

The Honorable Carl Heastie
Speaker of the New York State Assembly
Legislative Office Building, Room 932
Albany, NY 11247

February 17, 2022

Dear President Pro Tempore Stewart-Cousins and Speaker Heastie,

On behalf of the residents of New York, we the undersigned Senators and Assembly Members request the Senate Majority and Assembly Majority one-house budget resolutions for FY2023 include \$180 million in capital funding allocation, and a \$20 million allocation in aid to localities for planning, to accelerate greenway and trail development in the downstate metropolitan region. This funding would mirror the \$200 million allocated in the 2017 budget for the Empire State Trail program.

We are proud to see the initiatives put forth in the Empire State Trail program, but want to recognize that the majority of its designated \$200 million was distributed to rural areas outside of downstate metropolitan New York area. We believe that new funds appropriated in this year's budget should be designated to New York City, and Nassau, Suffolk, Orange, Rockland, and Westchester Counties to ensure that the funding is distributed to specific projects that fall within the areas that need it most. This funding would allow localities to use state dollars to match federal funding increasing urban, suburban trail, and greenway development resources.

The COVID-19 pandemic has illustrated the importance of accessible outdoor spaces and cycling infrastructure. But the need for greenway infrastructure in our communities will extend beyond the pandemic. Greenways improve safety for the thousands of New Yorkers who rely on cycling in their work or as part of their daily commutes, including delivery workers. They enhance the sustainability of our communities and improve quality of life, especially for neighborhoods

underserved by our transportation system.¹ This funding could help the New York City Department of Transportation plan and begin greenway projects in low income neighborhoods and communities of color with little or no greenway infrastructure.

New York City and the surrounding downstate metropolitan areas have enormous potential as they possess numerous unbuilt greenway segments that can serve as accessible open spaces throughout the region. This funding will allow the City and surrounding counties to expand greenway access, thus improving sustainability and quality of life for more New Yorkers.

Thank you for your consideration of our request.



Alessandra Biaggi
New York State Senator, District 34



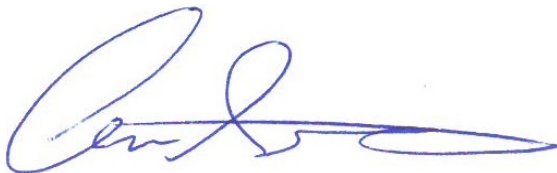
Emily Gallagher
New York State Assembly Member, District 50



Jabari Brisport
New York State Senator, District 25



Jeremy A. Cooney
New York State Senator, District 56



Andrew Gounardes
New York State Senator, District 22



Brad Hoylman,
New York State Senator, District 27



Robert Jackson
New York State Senator, District 31



Brian Kavanagh
New York State Senator, District 26

¹ New York Parks & Conservation Association and the Business Council of New York State, Inc. [Greenways and Trails: Bringing Economic Benefits to New York : ConservationTools](#). Accessed Jan 19, 2022.



John C. Liu,
New York State Senator, District 11



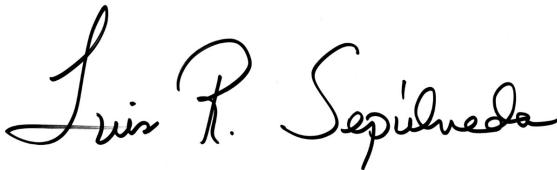
Zellnor Myrie
New York State Senator, District 20



Jessica Ramos
New York State Senator, District 13



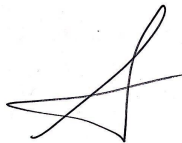
Julia Salazar
New York State Senator, District 18



Luis R. Sepúlveda
New York State Senator, District 32



Jose Serrano
New York State Senator, District 29



Kevin Thomas,
New York State Senator, District 6



Khaleel M. Anderson
New York State Assembly Member, District 31



Brian Barnwell
New York State Assembly Member, District 30



Edward Braunstein
New York State Assembly Member, District 26



Robert Carroll
New York State Assembly Member, District 44



Catalina Cruz
New York State Assembly Member, District 39



Jeffrey Dinowitz
New York State Assembly Member, District 81



Steven Englebright
New York State Assembly Member, District 4



Harvey Epstein
New York State Assembly Member, District 74



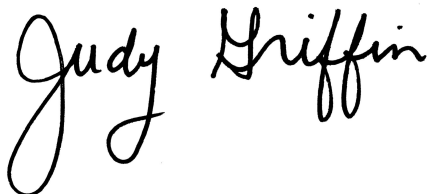
Mathilde Frontus
New York State Assembly Member, District 46



Deborah Glick
New York State Assembly Member, District 84



Jessica González-Rojas
New York State Assembly Member, District 34



Judy Griffin
New York State Assembly Member, District 21



Chantel Jackson
New York State Assembly Member, District 79



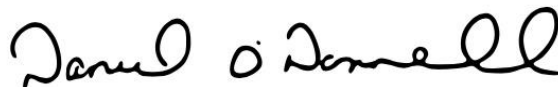
Jonathan Jacobson
New York State Assembly Member, District 104



Zohran Mamdani
New York State Assembly Member, District 36



Marcela Mitaynes
New York State Assembly Member, District 51



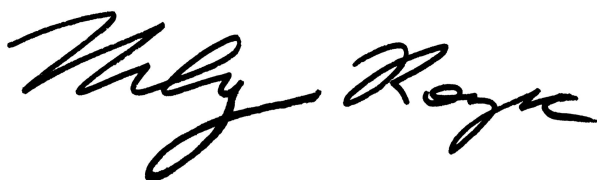
Daniel O'Donnell
New York State Assembly Member, District 69



Dan Quart
New York State Assembly Member, District 73



Linda Rosenthal
New York State Assembly Member, District 67



Nily Rozic
New York State Assembly Member, District 25



Rebecca Seawright
New York State Assembly Member, District 76



Amanda Septimo
New York State Assembly Member, District 84



Jo Anne Simon
New York State Assembly Member, District 52

A handwritten signature in black ink, featuring a large, stylized initial 'P' followed by a series of loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Phara Souffrant-Forrest
New York State Assembly Member, District 57