



Downtown Brooklyn Partnership
1 MetroTech Center North, Suite 1003
Brooklyn, NY 11201
www.downtownbrooklyn.com

May 9, 2013

Joseph Palmieri
Brooklyn Borough Commissioner
NYC Department of Transportation
16 Court Street, Room 1620
Brooklyn, NY 11201

Dear Commissioner Palmieri:

It has come to our attention that your agency is applying for round five of federal TIGER funding for the proposed Tillary Street reconstruction. I am writing to express our support of NYCDOT's efforts to fund this critical project. Having seen concept drawings of the potential improvements and talked through some of the features of the design, I am enthusiastic about the benefits this project would bring to Downtown Brooklyn.

The Downtown Brooklyn Partnership is a not-for-profit organization whose mission includes encouraging, coordinating and tracking economic development in Downtown Brooklyn. Since our founding in 2006, the neighborhood has experienced tremendous growth – over \$4.9 billion of private capital has been invested in the neighborhood. We strongly believe that much of this commitment has been spurred on by investment in the neighborhood's public spaces and improvement of the pedestrian environment.

New high-rise buildings including the Avalon Fort Greene, Toren, Oro and 80 DeKalb have been built directly adjacent to the new streetscape on Flatbush Avenue. The reconstruction of Fulton Street and the completion of Albee Square have encouraged the renaissance of the Fulton Mall shopping district, including the Citypoint development, and new construction to house tenants such as H&M, Swarovski, The Gap, American Exchange and Shake Shack. New hotels, including the aLoft, Sheraton and V3, have been built and new high rises by Stahl Real Estate and Avalon are under construction directly across from the planned Willoughby Square.

Current developments adjacent to the proposed Tillary Street project include the a planned Hampton Inn at the corner of Flatbush Avenue Extension and Tillary Street, the "Oro 2" on the east side of Gold Street, and hotel on the northeast corner of Tillary Street and Flatbush Avenue. Future development sites include the former McDonald's at Gold Street, the Fire Department parking lot on the north side of Tillary Street at Prince Street, the "Oro 2" site on the east side of Gold Street and the New York City College of Technology site between Jay Street and Bridge Street. From past capital projects, we know that the improvement of Tillary Street would do a great deal to encourage the reactivation and development of these sites.

The planned improvements to Tillary Street would not only be welcomed by Downtown Brooklyn's shoppers, residents and workers, they would lead to further growth. Developers and residents alike benefit from a neighborhood that has superb access to mass transit. Our constituency is enthusiastic about the urban character of the neighborhood and the improvements to pedestrian and bicycle safety that NYCDOT has implemented in the area and throughout the City, including the much anticipated CitiBike program. The new Tillary Street, with an improved environment for pedestrians and cyclists, would help to continue to make Downtown Brooklyn a better place to live, work and shop.

I want to reiterate our appreciation for your continued pursuit of the Tillary Street project and our full support for your application for funding.

Sincerely,

Tucker Reed
President