

**NYC Department of Transportation Testimony Before the
City Council Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
January 30, 2026**

Good afternoon, Chair Abreu and members of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. I am Eric Beaton, Deputy Commissioner for Transportation, Planning, and Management. I am joined by Rick Rodriguez, Assistant Commissioner for Intergovernmental and Community Affairs. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on behalf of Mayor Mamdani and Commissioner Flynn about Intro. 257.

I know we're here to just testify on the bill today, but I'd be remiss if we didn't cheerlead our work. At DOT we work with and support more than 200 Open Streets locations Citywide, including a record high 72 Open Streets at schools across the City. The Open Streets program also includes temporary, holiday-specific Open Streets such as Halloween and Harvest-themed Trick-Or-Streets events through October, Holiday Open Streets on Fifth Avenue, and expansions of celebrated annual tradition of our Summer Streets, reaching over 400 blocks of car-free fun.

We partner with schools, community groups, and Business Improvement Districts to execute and program these streets Citywide. Our program empowers community partners to steward their communities and create new possibilities to reimagine public spaces for food and culture, recreation and education. We also partner with local businesses to ensure that loading, deliveries, and emergency access are coordinated throughout.

The Mamdani Administration and Commissioner Flynn have a deep belief in supporting this program and equitably expanding the use of our streets as public space. We look forward to continue growing our Open Streets program.

Legislation

Turning to the legislation before the Council today.

Intro. 257

First, Intro. 257, sponsored by Council Member Joseph. This bill would modify the Open Streets program to offer activation opportunities on certain holidays outside of normal operating hours, including Memorial Day, Juneteenth, Fourth of July, Labor Day, Halloween, and other holidays or days with significant pedestrian traffic. It also requires procedures by which community

organizations may participate in or suggest new activation opportunities, which may also be offered on other days to the agency's discretion.

We support this bill, as we already extend the opportunity for programming on holidays, and look forward to extending opportunities for potential programming partners to activate our streets on even more days. We welcome the chance for additional conversations on how to enhance our efforts to think boldly about public space.

Conclusion

In conclusion, I would like to thank the Council for the opportunity to testify before you today. We would now be happy to answer any questions.