



**THE CITY OF NEW YORK
BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD 6
1932 Arthur Avenue, Room 403-A, Bronx, NY 10457**

Honorable Vanessa L. Gibson, Bronx Borough President

Honorable Oswald Feliz, New York City Council Member, 15th District

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MS. EVONNE CAPERS
Board Chairperson

MR. RAFAEL MOURE-PUNNETT
District Manager

December 17, 2025

Marie Therese Dominguez
Commissioner
New York State Department of Transportation

Bronx Community Board 6 would like to opine on the Environmental Assessment for the Cross Bronx Expressway 5 Bridges project. We appreciate that the EA was not released in July, so that Community Boards can submit comment, but we have unaddressed concerns about the current timeline. We again would like to reiterate that this project prevents the Reimagine the Cross Bronx project from implementing future improvements along the Cross Bronx within the project area, and public input was sought from residents of West Farms throughout the Reimagine project without information on the 5 Bridges project being shared. Our concerns arising from the Environmental Assessment include:

- The current timeline still only has 30 days for public comment on the Environmental Assessment, and the release of the EA and comment period overlap with Thanksgiving, Christmas, Hanukkah, and New Years. If NYSDOT was willing to push back the EA release from this summer, it is unclear why the EA was not simply released earlier in the fall to allow for more time to analyze. CB6 is relying on the input from environmental professionals and is concerned that they do not have time to analyze the 6,000 pages of materials in the EA.
- The project's study area is still missing the two most important east to west connectors in the area: East 177th Street and East 174th street. Without including those streets, we are missing the opportunity to improve east to west connectors that residents already use. This concern has been repeatedly expressed to NYSDOT throughout the process.
- Community Board 6 suggests that the \$150 million in federal funds being used for a community connector be instead used to make improvements on East 174th street and East 177th street. They can include new bike access to Starlight Park, rebuilding the staircase at the 174 bridge, and tree plantings. NYSDOT should consider issuing the \$150 million directly to NYCDOT for this purpose.

- We are concerned that the new Cross Bronx Expressway bridges are wider than the current bridge. This will mean more impermeable surface, more water runoff, and more flooding in our neighborhoods. East Tremont Avenue by the Bronx River is already an area with flooding issues. It is concerning that NYSDOT does not include any information about the current width of the bridge and proposed, expanded width of the bridge in the executive summary.
- We ask that NYSDOT consider only one shoulder instead of shoulders on both sides of the bridges. As we understand the issue, federal guidance for new shoulders is not required by law.
- We ask NYSDOT to not widen the individual lanes on the bridges.
- If the new bridges are wider than the current bridges, would that not create a road narrowing pinch point when the lanes connect on the other side of each bridge?
- We are concerned about the loss of parkland through the temporary staging area (south of the MTA lot) in Starlight Park. We ask that NYSDOT seek approval from the MTA to instead use other lots for staging, including the current MTA bus depot lot, the mostly vacant lot at East 177th Street and Bronx Park Avenue, and the land between the Bronx River and East 177th street/ Devoe Avenue, where NYSDOT is currently staging construction work. NYSDOT's previous use of the area south of the MTA bus depot removed adult trees, and now only young, newly planted trees are in this area. Their removal would be an additional setback in replacing the biomass of the adult trees removed in a previous construction project.
- We ask when and how NYSDOT will replace the 250+ trees that will be removed from Starlight Park for this project? Will the new trees be equal in biomass to the trees removed?
- There is an ongoing traffic issue with cars attempting to enter the Cross Bronx Expressway from the service road and Croes Avenue. Cars backup from this entrance ramp onto the service road and local streets.

Regards,



Evonne Capers
Chair
Bronx Community Board 6

CC:

Congress Member Ritchie Torres
Congress Member Alexandria Ocasio Cortez
New York State Senator Luis Sepulveda
New York State Assembly Member Karines Reyes
New York State Assembly Member Emerita Torres
New York City Council Member Oswald Feliz
New York City Council Member Elect Justin Sanchez
Bronx River Alliance
Bronx Community Board 3
Bronx Community Board 9