



NY GATEWAY CONNECTIONS IMPROVEMENT PROJECT  
TO THE US PEACE BRIDGE PLAZA

June 11, 2013 - Public Scoping Meeting

COMMENT SHEET

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Comments: To whom it may concern:

Let me start by saying how disappointed I was with your outreach and community engagement during this public scoping process. I'm shocked at your lack of communication with those who actually live near the Peace Bridge plaza. At the very least, you could have mentioned (or brought a rendering) ~~the~~ the proposed traffic circle that will lead to these new ramps. While you are still early in the planning process, it seems that you have given no consideration as to how this will affect pedestrians and cyclists using Porter Avenue to access Centennial pool splash pad, La Salle Park, and the ELW Fontana Boathouse. I would urge you to visit other busy/high traffic traffic circles. Symphony circle, for instance, during rush hour leaves pedestrians stranded waiting to simply cross the street. Throw children headed to their soft ball games or to the public pool into this factor and you could have some very serious accidents on your hands.

We should focusing first and foremost on the people when making these decisions. How will this affect pedestrians? Bikers? The air quality? Those who live on 4th Street?

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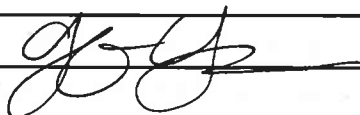
<p><b>MAIL COMMENTS TO:</b></p> <p>NY Gateway Connections Improvement Project New York State Dept of Transportation 100 Seneca Street Buffalo, NY 14203</p>	<p><b>E-MAIL COMMENTS TO:</b> <a href="mailto:NYGATEWAY@DOT.NY.GOV">NYGATEWAY@DOT.NY.GOV</a></p>
<p><b><u>All comments must be submitted by July 11, 2013</u></b></p>	

The presentation provided failed to address any of these factors. The presentation was not translated into Spanish. When a colleague of mine was greeted at the door, she was asked "if she spoke Spanish or was American." The lack of cultural sensitivity in a multi-cultural community is deplorable.

Lastly, it would seem that your public vetting process is all for show. On June 26<sup>th</sup>, Governor Cuomo signed a "Peace Bridge Understanding" that includes the "Gateway Ramp Project" to be completed in 2019. It does not state that this project is still in the public input process and subject to change, but does state exactly what the BOT proposed - removing Baird drive, and creating a new entrance on Porter. I'm confident that the Governor has already made up his mind and has no regard for those of us who live in the West Side.

I am embarrassed by how New York State has handled this public scoping process. I hope the voice of the community will be heard during the next phase, and more effort will go into informing the public. We live here, let us have a say.

Sincerely,



Development Coordinator at Heart of the City Neighborhoods, Inc.  
and resident of the Lower West Side.