

Susan Donoghue
President
Prospect Park Alliance
95 Prospect Park West
Brooklyn, NY 11215

Keith Bray
Borough Commissioner: Brooklyn
New York City Dept of Transportation
16 Court Street
Brooklyn, NY, 11241

December 9, 2015

Re: Dangerous road surface on Prospect Park loop drive

Dear Ms. Donoghue and Mr. Bray:

We write as representatives of organizations and businesses whose members and patrons regularly ride bicycles in Prospect Park. We want to underscore to you once again that bicycling in Prospect Park is unnecessarily dangerous because of the ongoing deterioration of the roadway surface on the Park's loop roadway. We strongly urge you to schedule full resurfacing of the loop roadway before use of the loop road increases again in spring of 2016.

The pavement condition on the northwestern segment of the loop, near 3rd Street, is so bad that in sections, all the cyclists on the loop try to funnel into a small passage to find smooth pavement. If many cyclists come into that section together, or cyclists are negotiating with crossing pedestrians, some inevitably are forced into lengthy segments of severely pitted, bumpy pavement that can cause cyclists to lose control and crash.

That is not the only section of poor and deteriorating pavement. The downhill along the West Drive that leads past the Lake and into the Park Circle entrance, where cyclists naturally gain speed, has numerous holes and cracks that can lead to injury-causing crashes. Other than the short section of roadway on the East Drive near the Lincoln Road entrance that was reconstructed as part of the Lakeside project, the entire loop roadway is marked by holes and cracks with high potential to cause cycling crashes and associated injuries.

You or your staffs have received communications from some of us and undoubtedly from others over the past year on this topic, and many of us have submitted complaints on this topic to 311. Unfortunately, only a minimum of patchwork repairs have been undertaken. And unfortunately, DOT's pothole-filling efforts are generally so rough that they transform holes into small humps and outcroppings, which are no safer than holes from cyclists' points of view. The patching that DOT apparently carried out on the morning of November 20 near 3rd Street has not helped.

Sincerely,

Horace Burroughs
WS United Cycling Club

Paul Carbonara
Axis Cycling Team

Aldo Diaz
General Manager
R&A Cycles

Dean Fearon
Major Taylor Iron Riders

David Hall
The Fifth Floor NYC Cycling Team

Richard Hawkins
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Kenneth Hochman
Founder
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Elizabeth Marcello
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Jules Roazen
President
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Emily Samstag
Bicycle Habitat Women's Cycling

Neile Weissman
President
New York Cycle Club

cc:

Phillip Damashek, General Counsel, NYC DOT
Alessandro Olivieri, General Counsel, NYC Parks Department
Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams
City Council Member Brad Lander
City Council Member Laurie Cumbo
City Council Member Mathieu Eugene
Brooklyn Community Board 6
Brooklyn Community Board 7
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