

Queens Civic Congress recommends its members in particular, and concerned New Yorkers identify local priority capital projects to their local Members of Congress and US Senators. It also makes sense to share your priorities with your Council Members, Assembly Members, State Senators and the Borough President. Items that come to mind and merit support include sewer relief, especially for southeast Queens and stations upgrade and signal improvements for Queens subway. (Thank you to QCC Executive Vice President Patricia Dolan for flagging this news item)

– Corey Bearak

http://www.nydailynews.com/ny_local/queens/2009/01/19/2009-01-19_federal_funds_sorely_needed_for_queens_i.html

Federal funds sorely needed for Queens infrastructure, pols say

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DelMundo for News

Flood at Brookville Blvd. near Rockaway Blvd. in Rosedale Queens on Wed. 09-29-04. Original Filename: GK3M4478.jpg

Hey [Barack](#) – [Queens](#) needs your help.

As Barack Obama takes the oath of office Tuesday, local governments are hoping his multibillion-dollar stimulus package will include money for the country's aging infrastructure.

In Queens, transportation advocates and elected officials pointed to a wish list of projects sorely in need of federal funding.

[City Councilman John Liu \(D-Flushing\)](#), chairman of the [Council's Transportation Committee](#), said his priority would be expanding the borough's bus network.

“It's not the most sexy-sounding, but it's what we need in Queens,” he said, pointing to the borough's scarcity of subway lines. “Residents in Queens rely on buses more so than in any other borough.”

The rail resources in Queens also need attention, Liu said. “There are dozens of subway stations and [LIRR](#) railroad stations whose maintenance has been deferred for years. Those stations need to be fixed up as quickly as possible,” he said.

[Paul Graziano](#), an urban planning consultant and president of the [Historic Districts Council](#), said two roads that traverse Queens’ marshlands need extensive work – Linden Place in [College Point](#) and [Brookville](#) Blvd. in southeastern Queens.

“College Point is only connected by four roads to the rest of Queens,” he said. “Extending Linden Place would significantly help traffic issues on 20th Ave. around the shopping area.”

Brookville Blvd., which connects the South Conduit to the Five Towns shopping area, is prone to significant flooding.

“The locals call it Snake Blvd. for a reason,” Graziano said. “The road is sinking into the wetlands.”

Improving the borough’s waterfront access and transportation could also stimulate the local economy, said Roland Lewis, president and CEO of the Waterfront Alliance.

Spud barges - semipermanent docking areas along the water - would be ideal in [Astoria's](#) Halletts Cove, College Point and near Gantry State Park in [Long Island City](#), Lewis said.

"It would create a destination and local businesses will expand around the water," he said. "Recreational canoeing, kayaking and environmental education would be very easy with spud barges."

Deteriorating roads are costing local businesses millions of dollars in shipping delays, said [Councilman James Sanders Jr.](#) (D-Laurelton).

For example, trucks sit idle on the Van Wyck Expressway for hours, Sanders said.

"Building infrastructure is one of the most effective ways of jump-starting our economy," he said. "We've allowed our infrastructure to deteriorate so much that it's affecting our competitive edge."

Sewer upgrades also top the list for some city officials in southeastern Queens, where development is outpacing infrastructure improvements.

"The water pollution control plant [in Rockaway] needs to be updated," said [Jonathan Gaska](#), district manager of Community Board 14, which serves the peninsula. "Our population is growing at a tremendous rate because of all the development down here."

A new infrastructure spending plan could also be used to improve bike paths and walkways - especially along Queens Blvd., said [Wiley Norvell](#) of the transit advocacy group Transportation Alternatives.

"You get a lot of bang for your buck with biking and walking projects. They are usually small-ticket items that make a big difference in terms of saving lives and encouraging nonpolluting transportation," Norvell said.

"This is something that is going to be unfolding citywide and we don't think Queens should miss the boat," he added.

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