



CITY OF CHICAGO
CITY COUNCIL



October 28, 2025

Hon. Brandon Johnson
Mayor
City of Chicago

Craig Turner
Acting Commissioner
Chicago Department of Transportation

RE: Request for Congestion Mitigation Assistance

Via Email

Dear Mayor Johnson and Acting Commissioner Turner,

We, the undersigned members of the City Council, respectfully request expedited traffic congestion mitigation assistance regarding the multiple river bridge closures negatively affecting our wards in the Loop, Near North, West Town, Lincoln Park, and Logan Square community areas.

As stated in many of our comments at the October 22, 2025 meeting of the City Council Committee on Budget and Government Operations, the combined closures of the bridges at State Street, Lake Street, Chicago Avenue, Halsted Street, and Cortland Avenue have created an untenable traffic congestion situation for tens of thousands of our residents in their daily transportation as motorists, bus transit users, cyclists, and pedestrians alike. Though outside of the Chicago Department of Transportation's jurisdiction, for this to also be happening in the midst of the Illinois Department of Transportation's work on the Kennedy Expressway and its ramps and feeders has made for incredibly poor conditions.

Our residents need creative solutions such as additional construction moratoriums on routes being commonly used as alternate routes (whether those routes are the official detours or not), parking restrictions, turn lane closures, signal re-timing, traffic aides at critical intersections during peak hours, and anything else that could help. The duration of many of these projects is of great concern as some are expected to last years. Exploration of work on nights and weekends to move reopening dates up must also be considered.

Collectively, our offices have received over a thousand complaints wanting to understand what can only be described as a lack of coordination of major projects. Thank you for your commitment at the committee hearing to work with our offices on this significant quality-of-life issue. Treatment of the matter with utmost urgency is needed and appreciated.

Sincerely,

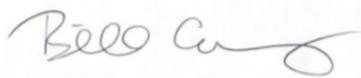
Daniel LaSpata
Alderman, 1st Ward

Brian Hopkins
Alderman, 2nd Ward

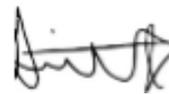
Walter R. Burnett
Alderman, 27th Ward



Scott Waguespack
Alderman, 32nd Ward



William Conway
Alderman, 34th Ward



Gilbert Villegas
Alderman, 36th Ward



Brendan Reilly
Alderman, 42nd Ward



Timmy Knudsen
Alderman, 43rd Ward