One Liberty Plaza
New York, NY 10006
T: 212 619 5000
edc.nyc

August 7, 2026

VIA E-MAIL

[redacted]

Re: Freedom of Information Law Request

Dear Mr. Blank:

This correspondence is in further response to your two requests, addressed to the New York City Economic Development Corporation ("NYCEDC"), pursuant to Freedom of Information Law ("FOIL"), Article 6 of the Public Officers Law.

The first request was dated June 22, 2026, and received on June 23, 2026, requesting records concerning the QueensWay Metropolitan Hub, QueensWay Phase 1, the former Long Island Rail Road Rockaway Beach Branch corridor, QueensLink, and the Metropolitan Avenue-to-Union Turnpike segment in Queens, including:

(1) Final or most recent Metropolitan Hub and QueensWay Phase 1 design packages, including plans, sections;
(2) grading plans, bridge drawings, civil drawings, structural drawings, landscape drawings, utility plans, access-node drawings, path drawings, bridge-approach drawings, CAD/GIS files, survey files, and companion PDFs;
(3) Records sufficient to show the design basis for the Metropolitan Avenue-to-Union Turnpike segment;
(4) including key assumptions for the sloped greenway, shared path, park entrances, bridge elements, Union Turnpike interface, MELS interface, Forest Park interface, Glendale ballfields interface, and construction access;
(5) Surveys, existing-conditions reports, structural investigations, bridge studies, geotechnical reports;
(6) Hydrology or drainage reports, utility investigations, environmental reports, risk registers, constructability reviews, value-engineering records, and staging plans concerning Metropolitan Hub or QueensWay Phase 1;
(7) Final or most recent records evaluating whether the current Metropolitan Hub or QueensWay Phase 1;
(8) design preserves, conflicts with, relocates, demolishes, burdens, or otherwise affects future rail, future transit, QueensLink, Rockaway Beach Branch reactivation, a rail envelope, station box, tunnel portal, tunnel-boring-machine launch box, construction;
(9) Staging, rail clearance, or joint rail-and-trail use.

You were requesting the documents from January 1, 2022 through the date of search, except that final deliverables, surveys, title materials, environmental materials, or design-basis records from the 2013 QueensWay planning process should be included if maintained by or for NYCEDC.

The second request was received on June 26, 2026, requesting electronic copies of existing records concerning communications and meeting materials about rail, transit, corridor, and construction-staging compatibility for QueensWay Metropolitan Hub and QueensWay Phase 1, including:

1. Final or issued meeting materials maintained in NYCEDC project files, including agendas, attendee lists, meeting summaries, presentations, briefing materials, decision logs, comment-response matrices, and action-item logs, but only to the extent they concern QueensWay Metropolitan Hub or QueensWay Phase 1 and future rail, future transit, QueensLink, Rockaway Beach Branch reactivation, rail-envelope preservation, transit compatibility, construction staging for possible transit use, or joint rail-and-trail use.
2. Final or issued communications, transmittals, comment letters, response letters, memoranda, or briefing materials exchanged between NYCEDC and NYC Parks, DOT, DCP, OMB, DCAS, the Law Department, the Mayor's Office, PDC, MTA, NYCT, LIRR, or MTA Construction & Development, but only to the extent they concern QueensWay Metropolitan Hub or QueensWay Phase 1 and future rail, future transit, QueensLink, Rockaway Beach Branch reactivation, rail-envelope preservation, transit compatibility, construction staging for possible transit use, or joint rail-and-trail use.
3. Final or issued communications, transmittals, comment letters, response letters, memoranda, or meeting materials maintained in NYCEDC project files and exchanged with WXY, DLANDstudio, Sasaki, Techno, Trust for Public Land, Friends of the QueensWay, Regional Plan Association, Tom Wright, Kate Slevin, Tiffany Ann-Taylor, or any other project consultant, project partner, sponsor entity, or outside stakeholder, but only to the extent those records concern QueensWay Metropolitan Hub or QueensWay Phase 1 and future rail, future transit, QueensLink, Rockaway Beach Branch reactivation, rail-envelope preservation, transit compatibility, construction staging for possible transit use, or joint rail-and-trail use.
4. Records sufficient to show NYCEDC's final or current position, final response, or final project-file treatment of comments or concerns that QueensWay Metropolitan Hub or QueensWay Phase 1 may preserve, conflict with, burden, modify, or affect future rail, future transit, QueensLink, Rockaway Beach Branch reactivation, a rail envelope, station box, tunnel portal, tunnel-boring-machine launch box, construction staging, rail clearance, or joint rail-and-trail use.

You were requesting the documents from January 1, 2021 through the date of search.

Pursuant to your correspondence dated July 18, 2026, and received by NYCEDC on July 20, 2026, you amended the above two FOIL requests and were now requesting only the following records: (1) the final and operative PDC Certificate 30399 design set, including available native CAD/BIM/GIS geometry and companion PDFs; (2) final structural, bridge-foundation, clearance, utility, and construction-staging records that directly affect the former Rockaway Beach Branch rail envelope; and (3) final MTA/LIRR comments, conflict analyses, response matrices, and design revisions addressing future rail or transit compatibility.

You subsequently clarified the scope of the above requests in correspondence to NYCEDC dated July 20, 2026, stating:

"The operative design and compatibility records should include any final drawing, model, analysis, or MTA/NYCT comment that locates or evaluates the existing unused branch trackways east of the 63rd Drive–Rego Park station and the constructible rail alignment from that subway provision to the former Rockaway Beach Branch.

The controlling records are those showing whether the final Metropolitan Hub geometry, foundations, retaining structures, and utilities preserve that connection. No additional historical or general communications are requested."

NYCEDC has diligently searched its files for records responsive to the above requests and, after consultation with the relevant project team, has determined that NYCEDC is not in possession of records responsive to your requests because the project has not yet reached the final design stage.

With provision of this information, NYCEDC considers your FOIL request to be complete. Any appeal with respect to this determination should be addressed in writing to Judy Fensterman, New York City Economic Development Corporation, One Liberty Plaza, New York, 10006, within thirty (30) days from the date of this letter.

Sincerely,

/s/

Kurt Wintje
Records Access Officer